

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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chooses Mets  
over Red Sox**

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Pedro  
Martinez

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crash in U.S., under  
NCIS investigation**

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helps designers  
sew up competition**

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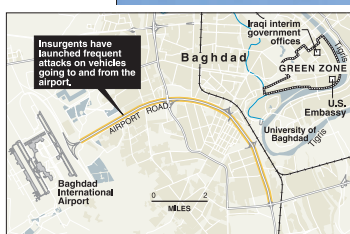
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2004

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# DOD announces newest deployments in terror war

Stateside units involved; troop levels in Iraq, Afghanistan unchanged

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THE WASHINGTON POST

Spc. Edward Gonzalez, 28, a gunner on a Humvee, shot a suicide bomber last month moments before the explosives detonated. A gunner in the Humvee behind him was killed in the explosion, as their convoy patrolled Baghdad's airport road. The road has been the site of nearly 20 car bombings recently, leading the U.S. Embassy to warn its staff not to travel on it.

THE WASHINGTON POST  
LATWP

## Travel hazards

U.S. troops move to boost security  
as many fear Baghdad's airport  
highway is becoming the most  
dangerous road in Iraq

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## TODAY IN STRIPES

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**Concorde crash:** A titanium strip that fell off a Continental Airlines jumbo jet onto a Paris runway was the main cause of the deadly crash of an Air France Concorde in 2000, judicial experts reported Tuesday.

Meanwhile, French prosecutors summoned top Continental executive Gordon Bethune and other officials for questioning in the probe of the July 25, 2000, crash outside Paris that killed 113 people, a lawyer for civil parties in the case said.

Judicial officials issued a report Tuesday designed to help assess responsibility for the crash, meaning employees at Continental could face prosecution in France.

**Madrid bombings:** An unidentified witness recognized an alleged mastermind of the Madrid train bombings in front of a Spanish judge investigating the attacks, court officials said on Tuesday.

The witness told National Court Judge Juan del Olmo that he had seen Egyptian Rabei Osman Ahmed in a house on the outskirts of Madrid, where police suspect terrorists prepared the bombs that exploded on Madrid commuter trains, killing 191 people and injuring more than 2,000.

**Taliban arrests:** Information from a man caught in a vehicle loaded with explosives led to the arrests of two senior Taliban military commanders believed responsible for a series of terror attacks in southern Afghanistan, an official said Tuesday.

Mullah Naqvi and Mullah Qayum were active in the ousted regime's insurgency, and there was hope they could lead security forces to other top leaders, said Abdullah Laghmani, the intelligence chief in Kandahar province.

**Taiwan politics:** Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian took the blame for a legislative election defeat and resigned as the leader of his party Tuesday, a move that might help him be more flexible with rival China and ease grudge in parliament.

Chen's Democratic Progressive Party and its allies were stunned when an opposition alliance — which was disorganized and beset with squabbling — won last week-end's legislative election, taking 114 of the 225 seats.

**Filipino film star/candidate:** Action film star and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., who refused to concede May's election, died Tuesday after suffering a stroke. He was 65.

Poe had complained of dizziness while dining with friends and employees at his suburban Manila, Philippines, film studio. He was brought late Saturday to St. Luke's Hospital, where doctors diagnosed a blood clot in his brain, and he later fell into a coma, his neurologist, Abdias Aquino, told



**Court-martial in Iraq's drowning:** 1st Lt. Jack Saville, right, arrives for a pretrial hearing in his court-martial with his attorney on Tuesday at Fort Hood, Texas. Saville and Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, both part of the 4th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Carson, Colo., are accused of ordering soldiers to push two Iraqis into the Tigris River in Samarra, Iraq, in January as punishment for violating curfew. Zaidoun Hassoun, 19, drowned. Defense lawyers contend that Hassoun safely reached shore and that Army investigators failed to positively identify a body or do an autopsy. Trials for Saville and Perkins are set for next month. They face up to 29 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

reporters. He died at the hospital early Tuesday.

## States

**Washington recount:** Through all the counting and recounting in the closest governor's race in state history, Republican Dino Rossi has held the slimmest of margins over Democrat Christine Gregoire.

For the first time since the Nov. 2 election, it looks as though the tide could be turning. King County election officials announced Monday that they would count more than 500 ballots that were mistakenly rejected after the election — possibly enough to swing the election to Gregoire.

Rossi won the election by 261 votes, but saw that margin shrink to 42 votes after a machine recount of all 2.9 million ballots cast.

**Andrea Yates appeal:** Andrea Yates' capital murder convictions for drowning her children should be overturned because the state's expert witness falsely testified and Texas' insanity standard is unconstitutional, her attorneys say in an appeal.

A three-judge panel of the First Court of Appeals in Houston was set to hear oral arguments Tuesday in Yates' appeal, which cites 19 errors from her 2002 trial. Yates' attorneys say she deserves a new trial. Jurors sentenced Yates to life in prison in the 2001 deaths of three of her children. She was not tried in the deaths of the other two.

**Michael Jackson case:** Claiming they are

swamped with potential evidence that prosecutors were slow in handing over, Michael Jackson's defense attorneys next week will ask a judge to postpone the pop star's child-molestation trial, according to court documents.

The trial is scheduled to start Jan. 31 in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Earlier this month, Santa Barbara authorities again searched Jackson's Neverland ranch, securing a saliva sample for DNA testing and examining the pop star's security and telephone systems.

**Freighter grounding:** U.S. Coast Guard officials said an oil and fuel spill from a freighter that broke in two when it ran aground off Alaska's coast probably amounted to thousands of gallons less than had been feared.

The federal government's incident commander, Capt. Ron Morris, said Monday just 41,138 gallons of bunker fuel were inside the tank directly breached when the Malaysian soybean freighter Selendang Ayu split in two Wednesday on an Unalaska Island shoal.

**SARS vaccine:** The National Institutes of Health is launching a human trial to test the safety of an experimental vaccine against severe acute respiratory syndrome.

SARS, which was first recognized in 2002, killed 774 people worldwide before being brought under control by quarantine, patient isolation and travel restrictions.

Stories and photo from wire services

## Correction

A headline in some of Tuesday's edition about six U.S. soldiers being court-martialed for stripping parts from abandoned Army vehicles was incorrect. The action occurred in Kuwait.



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Comics, horoscopes  
and advice — every day  
in Stars and Stripes

# Marine involved in fatal crash back in U.S.

## Immune from Romanian prosecution, embassy guard faces NCIS inquiry

BY CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Marine security guard who was driving an embassy-owned vehicle that collided with a taxi in Bucharest, Romania, killing a popular Romanian musician, has been assigned to administrative duties at his battalion headquarters in Virginia.

Meanwhile, military investigators traveled to Bucharest to determine if Staff Sgt. Christopher R. VanGoethem, 31, should be prosecuted in the death of Teofil Peter. The 50-year-old veteran rocker was the bass player for the Romanian rock band Compact.

VanGoethem, who was commander of the security detachment that guards the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, was taken out of Romania shortly after the Dec. 3 accident, angering many citizens there.

Romanian Premier Adrian Nastase sent a letter to President Bush asking Bush to "get involved in the solution" to calm Romanian public "outrage," perhaps by waiving VanGoethem's diplomatic immunity and returning him to Romania, according to a news release by the Romanian government. Romania has been a staunch ally of the United States in the war in Iraq.

Some news accounts reported that VanGoethem is suspected of driving drunk and that he refused to submit to alcohol-analysis tests and questioning by local authorities.

"I know the perception in Romania was that he was whisked out of the country," Marine Maj. Matthew W. Morgan, a spokesman for the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Camp Lejeune, N.C., said in a telephone interview.

"It was a decision the ambassador made.

The bottom line is the situation is being investigated and that [VanGoethem] is not going anywhere; he's at his battalion headquarters."

As a member of the administrative staff at the embassy, VanGoethem is immune from being prosecuted by Romanian authorities but is still answerable to the U.S. military legal system, according to a statement issued by J.D. Crouch II, the U.S. ambassador to Romania.

According to a Marine spokesman, VanGoethem, of Iron County, Mich., and Marine Security Group's Company H, voluntarily submitted to a Breathalyzer test at the scene of the Dec. 3 accident.

VanGoethem also submitted to a blood test, but only after it was agreed that the test would be given by U.S. personnel, according to the spokesman. The blood sample was then taken into custody by U.S. officials.

VanGoethem also gave a statement to Romanian investigators, Morgan said.

Morgan said that VanGoethem was directed by Crouch or by another embassy official to leave Romania and return to his company headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany.

VanGoethem was then transported to Marine Security Guard Battalion Headquarters in Quantico, Va., where he is performing administrative duties and is not in custody.

"VanGoethem was scheduled within days "to return to the U.S. as part of a normal rotation," Morgan said, adding that VanGoethem's family had already moved from Bucharest. VanGoethem was assigned to the Bucharest detail in August 2003.

In his statement, Crouch said that VanGoethem was granted the same protection as any Romanian Embassy official work-



Friends of Teofil Peter, late bass player with the Romanian rock band "Compact," hold his picture outside the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania, earlier this month. Peter died in a car crash when his taxi was hit by a car allegedly driven by a Marine, who tested positive for alcohol in a breath test after the accident. Having immunity from prosecution, the Marine left the country immediately after the accident.

ing in the United States would be granted in the same situation.

"Once all the information about the accident has been assembled, there will be a determination as to appropriate next steps concerning the Marine," Crouch said.

"My government is currently reviewing the government of Romania's request that the Marine's immunity be waived. Prime Minister Nastase sent a letter to President Bush on this issue. The White House has received the letter and is considering carefully the issues raised."

Investigators from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service went to Bucharest after the accident and are compiling evidence, re-creating the circumstances and examining the impounded vehicles.

"The NCIS is conducting their investigation and working closely with Romanian authorities," Morgan said. "[VanGoethem] is available to them whenever they wish to speak to him."

"The lead agent, however, has indicated a desire to complete initial aspects of the investigation in Romania before speaking with the Marine."

After the investigation is finished, Morgan said, an Article 32 hearing of evidence could be held to determine whether VanGoethem should face a court-martial.

Morgan said he doubted that any legal proceedings against VanGoethem would begin until after the December holidays.

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Courtesy of Mark Castorena

Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael John Mefford, left, is pictured with his brother, Tech. Sgt. Mark A. Castorena. Mefford, 32, was killed Friday in a motorcycle accident in Naples, Italy. He worked as a radiologist at the Naval Hospital at the Grigignano base near Naples. A memorial service for Mefford will be held Thursday at Grigignano.

# Memorial set for sailor who died in motorcycle accident

BY SANDRA JONTZ  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — There were two Naples to Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Mefford: soft and softer.

"He had a great love for the helpless and the elderly," said his older brother, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mark Castorena, stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington. "He loved his family and was a caring, loving son and brother. He was very adventurous and loved life and was quite the practical jester!"

Mefford, 32, a radiologist stationed at the Navy hospital at Grigignano, was killed Friday when his motorcycle collided with a vehicle on Italian highway SS7 in Naples. He had been wearing a helmet, officials said.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday at the chapel on Grigignano.

Mefford was an experienced motorcycle rider who loved adventure, from scuba diving to riding his bike, Castorena said. "He was the youngest of three of us brothers. So as you may imagine, he had to pull his weight being the youngest."

Mefford joined the Navy right out of high school, in keeping with the career paths of his older brothers. Each, however, picked a different branch of the service. His older brother, Richard Mefford, who joined the Marine Corps, died 16 years ago.

Mike Mefford had been married for three years and divorced in January.

"Although divorced, he still had a place in his heart for his former wife, Karissa. They remained close friends throughout his tour in Iraq and Italy," Castorena said.

Mefford is survived by his mother, Mona Mefford, his Father, Gordon Mefford, his stepmother Vickie Mefford, brother, Mark, and a nephew, Dominic Castorena.

Stateside funeral arrangements have not been finalized. Mefford is going to be buried in San Antonio.

"He may be gone, but he left us a legacy of pride, courage and love for our country, the United States of America," Castorena said.

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Courtesy of Dryden Flight Research Center

The X-38 research vehicle drops away from NASA's B-52B mothership after it's released from the B-52's wing pylon in July 1999. After nearly 50 years of service with NASA, the B-52 is being retired and will be put on display at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The markings under the wing of the B-52B are a history of all the vehicles the plane has launched.

## NASA retires B-52B aircraft after nearly 50 years in air

By LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — After nearly 50 years of high-speed, high-altitude hauling work, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's B-52B air-launch "mothership" is finally being grounded.

The tremendous aircraft — it has a 185-foot wingspan and once carried a \$3,100-pound payload to 50,000 feet — has played a critical role in the development of rocket engines and NASA's space shuttles.

But Alan Brown, spokesman for NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center in California, said mechanics have been salvaging parts from junked bombers and museums for years to keep the B-52B aloft, and the center simply does not have the finances or the need to continue those repairs.

"We really hate to see it retire," he said. "To see that thing still flying was incredible, when you knew it had been flying back in the 1950s. It has bridged so many eras here."

The plane's last flight was in November, when it carried the X-43A experimental scramjet engine on that machine's 7,000 mph, record-setting flight. Other experiments included the X-15 rocket plane, the precursor to NASA's early manned spacecraft.

Built in 1955, the aircraft was the 10th B-52 ever produced, but never dropped a single bomb, Brown said. Air Force officials loaned the plane to NASA in 1959 for space travel research, and will put the machine on permanent display at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., following Friday's handover.

The silver ship has seen more than 20 pilots over the last half-century but has been flown less than 2,500 hours, the least of any of the B-52s, Brown said.

NASA does have a modified B-52H that can conduct some air launch experiments in the future, but Brown said those will be few and far between. The newer aircraft doesn't have the strength or other payload modifications of the B-52B, and less expensive computer programs and smaller models will provide most of the data for future scientific research.

What those new devices won't have, Brown said, is the impressive history of the B-52B. "It has been so identified with us for so many years," he said. "It really is an amazing, historic aircraft."

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# Holiday happiness for all ages

## Dexheim students share Christmas cheer with German senior citizens

By JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

OPPENHEIM, Germany — It didn't take a grasp of the German language to bake cookies, years of experience to decorate a Christmas tree, or a sense of proper customs to sing carols.

Children from Child and Youth Services at Dexheim realized the spirit of Christmas is a universal language when they visited about 60 elderly Germans on Monday evening at a home in Oppenheim.

The visit included dancing, singing, tree decorating and gift bag treats given by 16 community children.

During the tree decorating, children brought ornaments to the senior citizens and then helped them to the tree to decorate together.

Janay Flowers, 15, an eighth-grader at the Wiesbaden American Middle School, asked three senior citizens to accompany her to the Christmas tree to decorate it.

"I helped put on a gold dove, an angel and a flower," she said. "I kind of got to talk to one of the ladies. I told her 'Merry Christmas' and then she laughed."

Dexheim children have been visiting the Oppenheim senior citizen home for 20 years and have brought Santa Claus with them for the last four years.

Esther Herrmann, director of events for the senior citizens, said the visit lifts the spirits of the residents.

"When they have the opportunity to see young people, how they're growing up, it gives them some hope," Herrmann said. "It's a change that helps them forget their sickness or handicaps just for this evening."

Many of the seniors smiled in their seats or wheelchairs, while others sipped warm spiced wine during the final performance of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Above: Yemimah Israel, 13, watches Monday as a resident of an Oppenheim, Germany, senior citizen home hangs an ornament on a tree. Yemimah and other kids from the Dexheim military community visited the home and helped the residents decorate the tree, passed out presents and entertained them with song and dance. Below: Kashun Williams, 13, decorates the tree with another resident.

Kenneth Barnett, 9, said being in the final show was his favorite part of the visit and he was glad he could bring some holiday cheer to the German home.

Anneliese Wessler, a resident of the home, said American children have been coming for so long that it almost seems like a family tradition. In fact, she said, it would be nice to see the children more often.

Linda Tranyham, who organized the event through youth services along with the Area Support Team, said she is looking into organizing more events during school breaks throughout the year.

At the end of the show, Herrmann offered drinks and sweet treats to the children.

Some of the senior citizens wished the children a final happy holidays in German, while the children said *Danke schön* — thank you — in return.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mil.eastripes.osd.mil



## Donations to help 1st ID troops, families

Stars and Stripes

Two nonprofit organizations presented the 1st Infantry Division with checks on Friday totaling more than \$60,000 for families, just in time for the holidays.

The money, from the Society of the First Infantry Division

and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, will be distributed to 392 families in the 1st Infantry Division and 37 families of division soldiers wounded in Iraq who are now in the United States for medical treatment, according to Maj. Gen. John R.S. Battiste in remarks at the division's holiday reception on Friday.

Battiste was on rest and recuperation leave from Iraq and attended the reception Friday in Würzburg.

"This is great," Battiste said. "There is no place I'd rather be right now (than) with the great families of Task Force Victory who have been sup-

porting soldiers down in Iraq for the last 11 or 12 months.

"(The donations will) help them make ends meet. In the holiday season, there are lots of demands on the pocketbook, and families definitely are appreciative of this money to make it all happen during the Christmas."

## Airman dies from injuries

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — A U.S. airman stationed at RAF Lakenheath died Sunday at the Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge from injuries he received in an automobile accident the week before, according to an Air Force news release.

Airman 1st Class Crystal R. Kopecky was assigned to the 48th Medical Operations Squadron, where she was a medical technician in the obstetrics ward. She had been assigned to RAF Lakenheath since May.

She was injured in a single-vehicle accident on the A1065 on Dec. 4.

Base officials are planning a memorial service for later this week, but details were not complete.

## Task force has new leader

German Rear Adm. Henning Hoops recently assumed command of the multinational anti-terrorism Task Force 150 during a ceremony at the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, according to a Navy news release.

The task force, which currently has eight ships from six nations, operates under the 5th Fleet in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden to counter the movement of terror-

ists and terrorism-related material through the region.

Task force ships have participated in exercises with many of the region's nations, including Yemen, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, the release stated.

Most recently, the task force's ships have been involved in humanitarian, rather than counterterrorism, missions. Two French ships have assisted grounded vessels, and the USS The Sullivans assisted a ship that had been adrift for more than two weeks.

Hoops assumed command from Royal Navy Commodore Tom Cunningham, according to the release.

From staff reports



# Pentagon announces mid-'05 rotations for war

BY PATRICK DICKSON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has decided on its troop rotation plans for mid-2005, which will keep force levels at the same strength for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are roughly 138,000 troops in Iraq and 18,000 in Afghanistan; another 12,000 are being sent to Iraq to provide security for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Defense Department spokesman Lawrence D. Rita, speaking at a Tuesday Pentagon briefing, said the moves were part of the regular rotations, and would not significantly change the look of the force in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

The deployment would keep force levels at three brigades and a division headquarters element in Iraq, and 17 brigades and three division headquarters elements in Iraq.

"We are identifying the units, it's part of the ongoing rotation — there's no change to the level or the disposition of the forces, it's just the next rotation that's going in. We're notifying the units and notifying the families."

For Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, the troops set to rotate in include:

■ The 3rd and 4th Brigades and headquarters elements, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

■ The 53rd Infantry Brigade and headquarters elements, Florida National Guard

For Operation Iraqi Freedom, the following units have been tapped to rotate in:

■ 4th Infantry Division — division headquarters and four brigades

■ 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, headquarters elements and four brigades, Fort Campbell, Ky.

■ 48th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Georgia National Guard

■ 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

■ 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

■ 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

The Pentagon alerted all units Friday, according to the official Pentagon official.

Smaller units will also be deployed, but planners had not gotten to that level of detail as of Tuesday, according to the official. Army Brig. Gen. David Rodriguez, deputy regional operations director for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it would be two to three months before the combat support elements would be identified.

Asked whether the continued insurgency was the motivation behind the announcement, Di Rita would only say the Defense Department would continue to evaluate the situation to determine whether more or fewer troops will be needed in the years to come.

Speaking in Baghdad on Tuesday, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said U.S. troop numbers will rise from 138,000 to 150,000 before next month's elections, which many Iraqis fear could be targeted by militants opposed to the occupation and bent on derailing the political process.

"Our troop levels will be at 150,000 for the elections and a little bit after," Myers said, adding that events would determine whether those numbers will be scaled down after the ballot.

The previous high for the U.S. force in Iraq was 148,000 on May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations were over, and most soldiers thought the war had been won. The initial invasion force included thousands of sailors on ships in the Persian Gulf and other waters, plus tens of thousands of troops in Kuwait and other surrounding countries.

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess and the Associated Press contributed to this report. E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mil

## McCain slams Rumsfeld on Iraq

BY BETH DEFALCO  
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — U.S. Sen. John McCain said Monday that he has "no confidence" in Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, citing Rumsfeld's handling of the war in Iraq and the failure to send more troops.

McCain, speaking to The Associated Press in an hourlong interview, said his comments were not a call for Rumsfeld's resignation, explaining that President Bush "can have the team that he wants around him."

Asked about his confidence in the secretary's leadership, McCain recalled fielding a similar question a couple weeks ago. "I said no. My answer is still no. No confidence," McCain said.

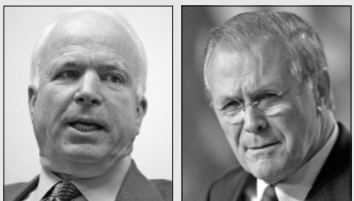
He estimated an additional 80,000 Army personnel and 20,000 to 30,000 more Marines would be needed to secure Iraq.

"I have strenuously argued for larger troop numbers in Iraq, including the right kind of troops — linguists, special forces, civil affairs, etc.," said McCain, R-Ariz. "There are very strong differences of opinion between myself and Secretary Rumsfeld on that issue."

When asked if Rumsfeld was a liability to the Bush administration, McCain responded: "The president can decide that, not me."

McCain, a decorated Navy veteran and former Vietnam prisoner of war, is a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has oversight of military operations and considerable influence over the Pentagon budget.

If Senate Republicans maintain their majority two years



AP photos

U.S. Sen. John McCain, left, said Monday that he and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, right, had "very strong differences of opinion" on the issue of force levels in Iraq.

from now, McCain would be in line to become the committee's chairman, something he said he'd weigh when considering whether to run for president again.

"In a couple of years, I might give it some consideration, but not right now," he said of a 2008 presidential bid.

Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita said McCain "has frequently expressed his views regarding troop levels in Iraq, and he is an important member" of the committee.

Rumsfeld has "relied upon the judgment of the military commanders to determine what force levels are appropriate for

the situation at hand," Di Rita said.

Despite the troop levels, McCain believes military morale remains high, but he acknowledged that involuntary extensions of tours of duty were frustrating to soldiers.

He said Iraq has a functioning independent government before U.S. troops leave.

"I believe we'll be in Iraq militarily for many years, which would not be a problem to the American people," he said. "I think what is not acceptable to the American people is an increasing flow of dead and wounded."

*"I think what is not acceptable to the American people is an increasing flow of dead and wounded (U.S. troops from Iraq)."*

U.S. Sen. John McCain



President Bush stands with Presidential Medal of Freedom honorees, from left, former CIA Director George Tenet; retired Gen. Tommy Franks, who oversaw combat in Iraq and Afghanistan; and former Iraq administrator L. Paul Bremer on Tuesday at the White House.

## Three of Bush's key players in Iraq receive Medal of Freedom

BY JENNIFER LOVEN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush awarded the nation's highest civilian honor Tuesday to three men central to his Iraq policy, saying they had played "pivotal roles in great events."

Bush presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to retired Gen. Tommy Franks, who oversaw combat in Afghanistan and the initial invasion of Iraq, former CIA Director George Tenet and former Iraq administrator L. Paul Bremer.

Franks, of Midland, Texas, is a retired four-star Army general who commanded U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. He spoke on the president's behalf at the Republican National Convention and campaigned for Bush through the fall.

Bush said Franks "led the forces that fought and won two wars in the defense of the world's security and helped liberate more than 50 million people from two of the worst tyrannies in the world."

Tenet left the CIA in July after seven years as director. He has been criticized for intelligence fail-

ures before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the never-proven prewar allegations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Bush credited him as "one of the first to recognize and address the threat to America from radical networks." He said that after Sept. 11, Tenet was "ready with a plan to strike back at al-Qaida and to topple the Taliban."

Bremer was the top civilian U.S. official in post-war Iraq, overseeing the transfer of power to an interim Iraqi government in June. "For 14 months Jerry Bremer worked day and night in difficult and dangerous conditions to stabilize the country, to help its people rebuild and to establish a political process that would lead to justice and liberty," Bush said.

This fall, Bremer suggested the United States had paid a price in Iraq in the immediate aftermath of major combat operations because it did not have enough troops in place to stop the looting.

The Medal of Freedom, established by President Truman in 1945 to recognize civilians for their efforts during World War II, was reinstated by President Kennedy in 1963 to honor distinguished service.

# Former regime leaders to be tried next week

BY NICK WADHAMS

The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — Trials against the 11 figures in Saddam Hussein's ousted regime will begin next week, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Tuesday, but Saddam will not be among them.

Many of Iraq's former Baath Party members have been in jail for more than a year, and few have been able to meet with counsel.

Saddam's Jordan-based lawyers say they have not seen the former dictator, arrested a year ago Monday, and said holding trials so soon would be illegal.

"The Iraqi court will be in violation of the basic rights of the defendants, which is to have access to legal counsel while being interrogated and indicted," Ziad al-Khasasneh said.

Officials had given conflicting accounts about when the trials before the Iraqi Special Tribunal would begin, and have also suggested that Saddam would not be tried

## Saddam will not be among those to go on trial

first. The Associated Press learned Tuesday that the proceedings next week would not involve Saddam.

"I can now tell you clearly and precisely that, God willing, next week the trials of the symbols of the former regime will start, one by one so that justice can take its path in Iraq," Allawi told the Interim National Council, without saying who would be tried.

Allawi had previously said they would take place in October or November, while others have said they would begin no earlier than 2006. An Allawi spokesman later said he had no information about who would be tried first and said more details would be released Wednesday.

"There is a court process that involves investigative judges and a hearing for some of the former regime officials that is under preparation that we would expect to be

held next week," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "At that point, the accused and their attorneys do go to court, although that's not the actual trial."

Iraq's human rights minister, Bekkhar Amin, said from Geneva that work was under way to bring some of Saddam's lieutenants to trial before him.

"I don't know for sure when Saddam Hussein in particular will be tried, but the trial is scheduled to start sometime next year, the first quarter of next year," Amin said. "I doubt that Saddam will be the first one to be tried, there are others whom we will start with and the work is ongoing right now."

Allawi also announced the arrest of a cousin of Saddam's, Izz-Din Mohammed Hassan al-Majid. Al-Majid, who fled Iraq in 1995 and was granted indefinite leave to remain in Britain in 2000, was arrested in Fallujah and will be put on trial as soon as possible, Allawi said.

Government leaders have said recently the Special Tribunal is not yet prepared to begin the trials. They need to train judges and prosecutors, and sort through stacks of evidence, all under the pressure of a deadly insurgency that has been able to strike at will.

"The prosecution team, the defense counsel, the investigative judges, the documents are not ready," National Security Adviser Mowafak al-Rubaie told the AP last week. "It will take time. If you want to get it right, it will take time."

But leaders have come under new pressure recently. On Monday, the U.S. military acknowledged that eight of Saddam's 11 top lieutenants went on hunger strikes over the weekend to demand visits in jail from the International Committee of the Red Cross, but they were eating again by Monday.

A lawyer for former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said they were protesting the legality of their trials and their detention.

## Paper given wrong Guard count for Iraq death analysis

Stars and Stripes

**WASHINGTON** — The Army National Guard said Monday it had given USA Today an inaccurate count of Guard troops in Iraq since the beginning of the war in March 2003, but still could not provide a precise count, the paper reported Tuesday.

USA Today used those numbers to construct an analysis that showed part-time troops from the Guard were more likely to die in Iraq than their counterparts in the active-duty Army.

Without precise figures, there is no way to accurately compare death rates.

The Guard said last week that 37,000 Guard troops had set foot in Iraq since the start of the war. On Tuesday, Guard spokesman Scott Woodham said 90,972 Guard troops had been ordered to Iraq, but he could not say how many had actually gotten there, and how many were on their way.

Woodham gave two explanations for the error. In a telephone interview with USA Today on Monday, Woodham said the National Guard Bureau made "an internal mistake" in compiling the numbers.

In a second conversation, Woodham said he "misunderstood the question" when asked how many Army Guard troops had deployed to Iraq since the beginning of the war, USA Today reported.

The proportion of battle deaths for Army Guard and Reserve in Iraq are still significantly higher than in past conflicts, Woodham said. Throughout the 12-year Vietnam War, for example, fewer than 100 Guard troops were killed, compared with the 145 who have died in less than two years in Iraq.



U.S. soldiers inspect a car destroyed when a car bomb exploded in Baghdad on Tuesday.

## Green Zone checkpoint hit again

### Second suicide car bombing in two days kills 7, wounds 13

BY SLOBODAN LEXIK

The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — A suicide car bomber killed seven people at a Green Zone checkpoint early Tuesday, the second attack in two days near the same gate into the district that houses Iraq's interim government and the U.S. Embassy, officials said.

In other violence, the U.S. military said two U.S. Marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based in western Iraq died in combat in Baghdad province Monday, bringing the number of Marines killed to 10 in three days. Seven other Marines died in action Sunday in Anbar, a vast province west of Baghdad including the battleground cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, and a 10th was killed Saturday. The military provided no details on their deaths, which brought to nearly 1,300 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003.

Tuesday's blast at the Green Zone checkpoint killed seven people and wounded at least 13 people, said Dr. Hassan AbdelSatar from Baghdad's Yarmouk Hospital.

Police Lt. Rafid Abid said the attack was carried out by a suicide car bomber.

A mushroom-shaped cloud of black smoke

rose from the site of the attack, which was near where a bomber struck Monday, killing 13 and injuring 15 people.

No U.S. troops were injured in either blast. The U.S. Embassy and several other missions are located inside the zone, which occupies an area of four square miles on the west bank of the Tigris River. The area, comprising Saddam's palace and other administrative buildings, is a virtual fortress encircled by miles of 12-foot-high barricades, its gates guarded by U.S. Bradley fighting vehicles. The complex is off-limits to the public.

Several of Baghdad's main arteries dead-end straight into it, cut off by a tripartite layered sprawl of concertina wire, impassable concrete blast walls and sandbagged guard towers.

Poland announced Tuesday it will cut its troop strength in Iraq by nearly a third in the month following the vote, as part of long-standing plans to reduce its presence. Poland's current 2,400-member contingent will be cut to 1,700 from mid-February, with 700 soldiers remaining in Poland on standby, Defense Minister Jerzy Szumowski told a news conference in Warsaw.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, Gen. Richard B. Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced the U.S. military will have a

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,296 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,016 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths, Italy, 19, Poland, 13, Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,158 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 97 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One U.S. soldier was killed Monday in a vehicle accident near Balad, Iraq.

■ Seven Marines were killed Sunday in Anbar.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Robert W. Hoyt, 21, Ashford, Conn., killed Saturday in Baghdad when an explosive detonated near his convoy; assigned to the National Guard, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, Bristol, Conn.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Marvin L. Trost III, 28, Goshen, Ind., and Army Spc. Edwin W. Roodhouse, 36, San Jose, Calif., killed Dec. 5 when an explosive detonated near their vehicle in Habbanyah, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Greaves, South Korea.

record-high 150,000 troops in Iraq through Jan. 30 elections and "a little bit after." (See related story on Page 5.)

Myers predicted that last month's U.S. led offensive to retake the western rebel stronghold of Fallujah would undercut the rebellion by denying guerrillas a sanctuary from which they could launch attacks with relative impunity. "They will try to move to other locations but I don't think they are going to find any location as satisfactory as Fallujah was for their operational planning and facilitation of what they were doing."



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WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND MAKES LACTAID?



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## "Gift of Groceries" offers unique way to celebrate the season

By Bonnie Powell  
bonnie.powell@dca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. — Anyone can show support for military families this holiday season with a "Gift of Groceries."

"Whether it's for a national or installation charity, families of deployed service members, or simply as a gift for your neighbor, the general public can help support military families with commissary gift certificates," said Patrick B. Nixon, acting director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Since the program began in the fall of 2002, nearly \$5 million in commissary gift certificates has been given as gifts or donated to military families."

During the holidays in particular, gift certificates have proven to be handy for food basket programs by allowing recipients to purchase the groceries they need and prefer, rather than getting food items they might not be able to use. "And since commissaries sell food at cost, military families save an average of 30 percent or more by using their commissary benefit," said Nixon. "That's critical for families on a tight budget — at the holidays or any time of the year."

The public can also donate gift certificates to worldwide organizations that assist military families such as the USO, Air Force Aid Society and Fisher House Foundation. Since the "Gift of Groceries" program began, nearly \$130,000 has been donated to those specific charities.

"The commissary gift certificates are obviously appreciated and used by families staying at Fisher Houses worldwide," said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications for Fisher House Foundation. Fisher Houses are comfort homes located near military medical facilities.

"Most donated certificates are being used to buy groceries for families staying at our homes while their loved ones recover from injuries sustained in Afghanistan or Iraq."

The "Gift of Groceries" program is made possible through a business agreement with Certificates Inc. at no cost to DeCA or the federal government. The program allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> or by calling toll free 1-877-770-4GIFT. The certificates can be given as gifts or donated, but only authorized commissary shoppers can spend them. A standard charge of \$4.95, paid by the purchaser, covers the costs of handling, printing and mailing. Additional charges may apply for large orders or special delivery.

Gift certificates, in \$25 denominations, are now available in all 273 commissaries worldwide. The availability of gift certificates in stores is intended as a customer convenience — filling the need for a last minute gift. A handling fee of \$1 per \$25 certificate offsets printing, shipping and handling costs, and only cash or check is accepted on gift certificates acquired directly through a commissary customer service office.

# Guarding the most dangerous highway in Iraq

Since November, there have been nearly 20 car bombings on Baghdad's airport road

BY JOSH WHITE

The Washington Post

ON THE BAGHDAD AIRPORT ROAD  
— Spc. Edward Gonzalez spun the turret around quickly and locked it into place with a loud clunk, training his machine gun on the traffic behind him. The radio had just crackled with a warning: A suspicious vehicle was moving in close on the Army convoy.

"What kind of car was it, again?" Gonzalez, 28, of Alice, Texas, belted out, ducking his head momentarily into the rolling armored Humvee, which has "Big Country" emblazoned on the windshield. First Lt. Jeffrey Porter, 25, of Tomahawk, Ky., dropped the radio and turned to his left, calmly describing a white 1995 Volkswagen Brasilia and telling his gunner he had been warned that the car might be rigged with explosives.

Some people call this road, the only way from the airport to Baghdad's Green Zone, the most dangerous highway in Iraq. Later, it has become a magnet for enormous, fiery explosions. People boast that they've traveled it and are relieved when they make it from one end to the other. To the Army, it's just Route Irish.

"There he is, there he is," Gonzalez said, turning the turret again. "He's coming up on the right side. He's ahead of the rest of the traffic. OK. He's pulling off at the exit. There he goes."

Every minute on this roadway is tense. From the beginning of November through

last week, there were nearly 20 car bombings here targeting U.S. convoys and government officials, leading the U.S. Embassy to warn its staff not to travel the road.

Army officers and soldiers with the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment are charged with protecting Route Irish, and they say the road isn't nearly as bad as it is portrayed. They acknowledge that the attacks have created a significant perception problem, scaring people away from the route and causing the U.S. military to dramatically increase its number of patrols.

The 2nd Brigade of the Army's 10th Mountain Division is planning to bring in another battalion of soldiers from the United States specifically to boost the military presence on the airport road. The plans are being developed, officials said without providing specifics, but a few hundred more soldiers will probably be added soon.

Maj. James Fischer, the acting commander of the unit, said he believed the November car bomb attacks were part of a campaign of intimidation by insurgents. Several people were killed in the attacks, but most of the casualties were bombers.

"In the big scheme of war, it's nothing," Fischer, 39, of Jefferson, Wis., said of the attacks. "It's not as bad as it looks."

Unfortunately, the enemy has caused a lot of people to worry. "We're out there trying to keep it safe."

While every death is a tragedy, he said, new procedures on the road have for the most part prevented additional casualties.



Iraqis stand in early December outside a shop in Baghdad that was bombed. The shop is close to Baghdad's dangerous airport highway.

The Army previously sent regular convoys to patrol the road; now soldiers are armed to the teeth and bring along tank-tracked Bradley Fighting Vehicles. The Bradleys are equipped with special magnification tools that allow soldiers to peer into and under cars from a safe distance to determine whether they are a threat.

The car bombs, however, are a different story. There is almost nothing the military can do to stop suicide bombers, short of identifying them early, forcing the vehicles off the road or attacking them. The soldiers

use profiles — including certain makes and models of cars and nervous or erratic behavior — to intervene as early as possible. They fire warning shots before putting bullets through a car's engine block. As a last resort, they will kill a driver.

The explosions from the suicide missions leave blackened divots in the asphalt, and their sharp blasts rattle the windows and doors in nearby camps Liberty and Victory, where soldiers live. The smoldering carcasses of civilian vehicles sit on the road's shoulders.

Gonzalez and Porter, members of Assault Battery with the unit, speak softly when they mention their experience with a car bomb on Nov. 6, an attack that killed an American gunner in a Humvee directly behind theirs.

"He was clean-shaven and in a white car," Gonzalez said, perched in his turret, the sun reflecting off his blast-proof sunglasses. "As soon as I saw him, I knew it. He was nervous. He swerved to the far right lane, and by the time he got to the convoy, I shot."

Gonzalez hit the driver in the chest with one round from his M4 rifle. By the time he had fired a second shot, the middle of the car was erupting in flames. Gonzalez ducked and avoided injury.

"I got two kids at home," Gonzalez said. "For a few days, I was worried about all of this. But it kind of fades with time."

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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"Scott Peterson was Laci's husband, Conner's daddy — the one person that should have protected them," juror Richelle Nice said Monday in Redwood City, Calif., after recommending death for Scott Peterson. "They can rest in peace," she said. "Justice was done." Judge Alfred A. Delucchi will formally sentence Peterson on Feb. 25. The judge will have the option of reducing the sentence to life, but such a move is highly unlikely.

AP



# Peterson jury calls for death

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF

The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — A jury decided Monday that Scott

Peterson should be executed for murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, whose Christmas Eve disappearance two years ago was the opening act in a legal drama that captivated the nation.

A cheer went up outside the courtroom as the jury announced its decision after 11½ hours of deliberations over three days. The jury had two options in deciding the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman's fate: life in prison without parole or death by injection.

Peterson clenched his jaw when the verdict was read and leaned over to speak with his attorney, Mark Geragos. Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, cried quietly — her lips quivering. Scott Peterson's mother, Jackie, showed no apparent emotion.

A crowd of several hundred gathered outside the courthouse to hear the verdict.

Three jurors held a news conference following the verdict in which they described what they called a "very hard" decision.

"There are so many things, so many things," juror Richelle Nice said. "Scott Peterson was Laci's husband, Conner's daddy — the one person that should have protected them."

The jury had been told that Peterson did not wear his emotions on his sleeve. Nice told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday that she noticed Peterson becoming emotional during the penalty phase of his trial.

"Is it just that he doesn't show emotion for Laci and Conner?" she asked.

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi will formally sentence Peterson on Feb. 25. The judge will have the option of reducing the sentence to life, but such a move is highly unlikely.

If the judge upholds the sentence, Peterson will be sent to death row at San Quentin State Prison outside San Francisco, the infamous lockup where prisoners gaze out small cell windows overlooking the same bay where Laci Peterson's body was discarded.

But Peterson still might not be executed for decades — if ever — and it can take years for even the first phase of the appeals process to begin.

The death sentence came almost two years to the date after the disappearance of Laci Peterson, a 27-year-old substitute teacher who married her college sweetheart and was soon to be the proud mother of a baby boy named Conner. The story set off a tabloid frenzy as suspicion began to swirl around Scott Peterson, who claimed to have been fishing by himself on Christmas Eve and was carrying on an affair with a massage therapist at the time.

In a brief news conference after the verdict, Geragos said he was "very disappointed." "Obviously, we plan on pursuing every and all appeals, motions for a new trial and everything else," he said.



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# Report: States not protected

## Bioterror prevention chided

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — States are slowly getting better prepared to handle bioterrorism, but most still don't have statewide response plans and federal funding is declining, according to a new report.

The report echoed fears voiced by outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson earlier this month, when he said he couldn't understand why terrorists haven't attacked the country's food supply because it would be "so easy to do."

And the review follows a year in which the country faced a shortage of flu vaccines — a normally routine protection against a known problem.

Complied by the nonprofit Trust for America's Health, the report issued Tuesday found only six states are adequately prepared to distribute vaccines and antidotes in an emergency, but it named only three of them: Florida, Illinois and Louisiana.

"More than three years after 9/11 and the anthrax tragedies, we've only made baby steps toward better bioterrorism preparedness, rather than the giant leaps required to adequately protect the American people," said three-term former Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr.,

now president of Trust for America's Health.

The report concluded that basic bioterrorism detection, diagnosis and response capabilities are not in place, and the country has a long way to go to protect the American public from such an attack.

One common problem was lack of funding. Federal bioterrorism aid has decreased by about \$1 million per state in 2004, and about one-third of the states saw their public health budgets decline.

The report graded states on whether they met 10 criteria, including such elements as the amount of state spending and federal aid allocated to public health, the flu vaccine rates, and the number of scientists and laboratories available to test for anthrax or the plague.

No state met all 10 criteria, and only two — Florida and North Carolina — met nine of the 10. Two states, Massachusetts and Alaska, met only three criteria, and received the worst ranking.

Most states, including Rhode Island, met five or six criteria.

The most significant downfall among the states was the lack of adequate public health labs and laboratory scientists to handle serious outbreaks. The report found only 16 states have enough labs and 21 have enough scientists.

### How well is your state prepared?

A ranking of states by the Trust for America's Health, based on their preparedness to face bioterrorism risks.

States are ranked by how many of 10 criteria they met. The criteria, picked by the trust, include such elements as state spending on public health, flu vaccine rates and the number of scientists available to test for anthrax or the plague.

9: Florida, North Carolina  
8: Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Virginia

7: Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont

6: Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

5: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island

4: Indiana, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Wyoming

3: Alaska, Massachusetts

—The Associated Press

Handling a flu pandemic, especially in light of this year's season, age of flu vaccines, would be a problem for at least 20 states that have no public response plan in place.

This is the second year in a row that the group has compiled the bioterrorism report card on the states. But changes in the ranking make comparisons with last year's scores difficult.

# LAX not lax on efforts to safeguard airliners

BY GREG KRIKORIAN

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Counterterrorism officials, prompted by a series of overseas attacks against commercial airliners, have quietly taken steps to protect jetliners at Los Angeles International Airport from terrorists armed with shoulder-launched missiles.

Although there is no credible intelligence indicating that terrorists have planned such an attack at LAX, the officials say the security measures are needed because portable weapons are easy to buy on the international arms market and are deadly, with infrared guidance systems that lock onto the heat emitted by jetliners' engines.

The security measures, instituted over the past year, include increased police patrols around the airport, new perimeter fencing, stepped-up training to help personnel spot the tubular weapons and expanded helicopter surveillance during terrorism alerts so a missile's route could be tracked in the event of an attack.

A Rand Corp. report commissioned by airport authorities said earlier this year that LAX is "a particularly attractive target" for terrorists and outlined ways of reducing the risk of attacks involving so-called man-portable air defense systems.

"I think the threat has been continually underestimated by the decisionmakers in Washington," said Sen. Barbara Boxer,

D-Calif., who has urged the Department of Homeland Security to accelerate plans for installing missile defense on commercial aircraft.

Terrorists have never fired a shoulder-launched missile at an airplane in the United States. But the small missiles, weighing less than 40 pounds, have been used to shoot down two dozen commercial aircraft around the world over the past three decades and could be smuggled into the United States. A successful attack could ground the entire commercial airline fleet, some experts say.

"The threat is real," John Miller, the Los Angeles Police Department's counterterrorism chief said in an interview after appearing at a counterterrorism conference last month at the University of Southern California. "With about \$9,000 of these aerial weapons on the black market, for \$2,000 to \$3,000 each, there is no indication it will not be tried again."

Counterterrorism officials see shoulder-fired missiles as a looming threat in the United States in part because tighter airport screening measures — promoted by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks — have made it harder for extremists to hijack an airliner and down it from within.

At the federal level, Boxer's most far-reaching solution calls for retrofitting the nation's commercial airliners with onboard lasers that destroy a portable missile's infrared guidance sensor.

### More evidence Mars had water?



NASA, JPL, CORNELL/AP

Scientists have identified a water-bearing mineral called goethite in bedrock that NASA's Mars rover Spirit examined in the Columbia Hills, one of the mission's surest indicators yet for a wet history on Spirit's side of Mars. Spirit and its twin, Opportunity, were sent to Mars to look for geologic evidence of a watery past. Both rovers, especially Opportunity, have found such evidence in their nearly yearlong treks over the martian surface, but Goestar Klingelhofer of the University of Mainz, Germany, lead scientist for the spectrometers on each rover, said Monday in a statement issued by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., that the goethite find is particularly important.

# Documents: AIDS drug's problems hidden by NIH

Bush unaware of nevirapine concerns when use was touted

BY JOHN SOLOMON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government's research on using an AIDS drug to protect African babies was so flawed that health officials had to use blood tests after the fact to confirm patients got the medicine. Ultimately, they had to acknowledge the study broke federal patient protection rules.

But the National Institutes of Health never told the White House about problems it found in 2002 with its research on the drug nevirapine before President Bush unveiled a \$500 million plan to distribute the medicine across Africa, documents obtained by The Associated Press show.

Instead, officials inside the government's premier health research agency scrambled to keep its safety experts' concerns from scuttling the use of nevirapine in Africa as a cheap solution to stopping babies from getting AIDS from infected mothers, the memos show.

"Everyone recognized the enormity that this decision could have on the worldwide use of nevirapine to interrupt mother-baby transmission," NIH's AIDS research chief, Dr. Edmund C. Tramont, reported March 14, 2002, to his boss, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of

doses of the drug had been administered to African mothers and babies under the Bush plan.

Up to half those babies may have been stopped from getting AIDS, officials said. But now concerns are emerging about whether patients who received those single doses have developed resistance to further AIDS treatment.

The documents show Tramont and other NIH officials dismissed the problems with the nevirapine research in Uganda as overblown and were slow to report safety concerns to the Food and Drug Administration.

A professional auditor hired by NIH who first helped disclose the problems said in an interview that most of the problems were fixable but NIH officials were in a rush to declare that things were OK.

"It seemed to me we were drawing conclusions too quickly across the board, especially the implementation of nevirapine in South Africa," said auditor Michael Hensley.

Ultimately, NIH did stop the Uganda research for 15 months — from the spring of 2002 to the summer of 2003 — to review the science and take corrective actions.

NIH officials said they remain confident that nevirapine can be safely used in single doses by African mothers and children to prevent HIV transmission during birth.

Specialist LaAndrea LaMarque. 54B Chemical Specialist. U.S. Army Reserve

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## IN THE WORLD

# EU official: Radicals training in Iraqi camps

By RAF CASERT  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Radical youths from Europe and the Arab world are being trained in Iraq, Europe's anti-terror chief said Tuesday, warning that such clandestine camps could multiply in unstable or failed states anywhere in the world.

"There are some who have gone to Iraq, as indeed there have been youngsters from outside Europe, from Arab countries, who have gone there to receive military training," EU counterterrorism coordinator Gijs De Vries said in an interview with The Associated Press.

De Vries refused to elaborate on the specifics, such as the num-

bers or countries of origin of those training in Iraq, saying the information was classified.

But he warned that action had to be taken to stop instability breeding terror.

"This is incidentally not just the case in Iraq," he said.

"Instability elsewhere in the world, in Africa for example, always makes it more difficult for the law to be upheld, for democracy to function, and therefore makes it easier for terrorists to hide and train."

## Terror threat remains high in Europe

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union's anti-terror chief warned Tuesday that all of Europe remains vulnerable to terrorist strikes despite a lull in attacks since the March 11 Madrid bombings and the foiling of plots in several countries.

"We should take it very seri-

ously indeed," EU counterterrorism coordinator Gijs De Vries said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Spanish and British authorities say they have averted major terror attacks in recent months.

In October, 30 people were detained on suspicion of planning to drive an explosives-packed

truck into Madrid's National Court.

British police said last week they had prevented an attack in London on the scale of the Madrid bombings.

"There have been other instances," De Vries said, but refused to give details. He warned that such success must not lead to complacency.

### London strikes planned

LONDON — Drivers on a London subway line will stage one-day strikes on Dec. 24 and Jan. 5, their union said Tuesday, disrupting travel over the busy Christmas period.

Drivers on the Piccadilly Line, which runs from Heathrow Airport through central London, voted 77-15 to walk out on the two dates in their dispute over the demotion of a driver accused of running red signals, the Aslef union said.

In a separate ballot, drivers on the District Line voted to work on Jan. 5 in a dispute over working conditions.

### Crackdown sex tourism

ROME — Italian authorities arrested four people in a crackdown on travel agencies who organized child sex tourist trips to Brazil, police said Tuesday.

Rome police official Alberto Intini said the trips were organized by a travel agency in the Brazilian city of Fortaleza, which sent clients to local bars, discos or hotels where child prostitution was practiced.

Police arrested the Italian owner of the travel agency as he was boarding a plane from Italy to Brazil last week, Intini said. They arrested his Brazilian wife and the owners of two other Italian travel agencies in a pre-dawn raid on Tuesday.

### Bad Sex writing award

LONDON — It's the literary award no author wants to win, and this year it's gone to Tom Wolfe.

The Literary Review gave Wolfe its annual Bad Sex award Monday for his best-selling novel "I Am Charlotte Simmons."

Judges said the book's sex scenes were "gloriously... inept... unrealistic." The nearly 700-page novel is set at fictional Dugout University in Pennsylvania, chronicling the "right, naive Charlotte Simmons" entry into a hedonistic world filled with heavy drinking and casual sex.

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Onlookers get a view of the world's tallest traffic bridge last Thursday, in Millau, France. The viaduct soars over a valley in southern France. President Jacques Chirac on Tuesday inaugurated the bridge, which stands about 890 feet at its highest point and is scheduled to open to vehicular traffic on Thursday.

# France unveils world's tallest roadway bridge

BY PERRINE LATRASSE  
The Associated Press

MILLAU, France — Piercing the sky above the verdant hills of southern France, a roadway bridge hailed as the tallest in the world was officially inaugurated Tuesday.

Celebrated as a work of art and an object of French national pride, the Millau bridge will enable motorists to take a drive through the sky — 891 feet above the Tarn River valley for 1.6-mile stretch through France's Massif Central mountains.

Designed by British architect Norman Foster, the steel-and-con-

crete bridge with its streamlined diagonal suspension cables rests on seven pillars — the tallest measuring 1,122 feet, making it 53 feet taller than the Eiffel Tower.

The bridge, which has an airy and fluid appearance, was designed to have the "delicacy of a butterfly," Foster said in an interview with regional daily newspaper Midi Libre.

"A work of man must fuse with nature. The pillars had to look almost organic, like they had grown from the earth," said Foster, who also designed London's Millennium Bridge.

Colorado's Royal Gorge

Bridge, towering 1,053 feet above the Arkansas River, is the world's tallest suspension bridge — but it is designed for pedestrians. The Kochert viaduct in Germany was the highest roadway, at 607 feet, officials said.

President Jacques Chirac, surrounded by workers in hard hats, lifted a French flag covering a butterfly, Foster said in an interview with the bridge in the town of Millau on Tuesday.

"This exceptional opening will go down in industrial and technological history," Chirac said, praising the bridge's designers and builders for creating "a prodigy of art and architecture — a new emblem of French civil engineering."

# Yushchenko advocates take campaign beyond Ukrainian capital city

BY ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC  
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Supporters of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko expanded a campaign to spread the so-called Orange Revolution beyond Ukraine's capital on Tuesday, organizing a convoy that will visit 15 cities in the coming days — including in eastern provinces that have been hostile to the candidate.

More than 50 supporters of the Pora (It's Time) youth movement will head to the pro-Russian eastern provinces, hoping to win over voters in areas where support for Yushchenko's opponent, Viktor Yanukovich has been strong. Yushchenko and Yanukovich face off for the presidency in a Dec. 26 contest ordered by the Supreme Court after the two candidates' second-round vote on Nov. 21 was ruled fraudulent.

The "friendship journey" — in which Yushchenko supporters flaunt the campaign's trademark orange color — is part of a campaign rolled by explosive revelations, including the confirmation by an Austrian clinic over the weekend that Yushchenko had been poisoned by dioxin. Prosecutors and a parliamentary committee quickly set up investigations — the second time each has examined the poisoning incident — and officials close to the Ukrainian leadership took charge of both.

Yushchenko fell ill in September and was rushed to the Austri-

an clinic on Sept. 10. His illness caused dramatic facial disfigurement.

"So far we don't have an independent source of information which could allow us to analyze the situation," said Mikhail Pohrebinsky, a Kiev-based political analyst with ties to President Leonid Kuchma.

Pro-Yushchenko lawmaker Yuriy Pavlenko speculated that Russian agents may have been involved in a popular local theory stemming from Russian President Vladimir Putin's backing of Yanukovich.

Many of the ruling political and business elite face the fear of lucrative contracts made possible by high level connections if Yanukovich — Kuchma's hand-picked successor — lost the race, analysts said.

Many of those contracts involve Russia. All but one of Russia's major infrastructure links and natural gas exports to Europe pass through Ukraine.

Government opponents have faced attack before. More than two dozen Ukrainian politicians, high-ranking businessmen and journalists have died under suspicious circumstances during Kuchma's decade in power. All investigations into the deaths have proved inconclusive.

For his part, Yanukovich said he sympathized with his rival and that he wished him "no evil."

In an interview with The Associated Press, he said he wanted a thorough investigation and promised not to interfere in it. But he stressed that the impact of the dioxin could hamper Yushchenko's performance should he be elected.

Associated Press writers Yuras Karmanov and Danica Kirka contributed to this story.



Yushchenko

# Pakistan, India begin talks to avoid accidental nuclear war

BY MUNIR AHMAD  
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani and Indian negotiators opened talks Tuesday on how to avoid an accidental nuclear war between the two South Asian rivals, the foreign ministry said.

It is the second time since June the two sides have met to discuss their nuclear weapons. India and Pakistan also have launched a broader effort to resolve long-running disputes, including their competing claims over the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan told reporters the two sides were discussing "new safeguards to avoid any accidental nuclear war" — including giving advance notification of missile tests.

Both delegations expressed optimism about the talks, scheduled to last two days. "We are happy to be in Islamabad," said Meera Shanker, head of the Indian dele-

gation. "We are in favor of result-oriented talks."

The head of the Pakistani side, Tariq Usman Haider, also said he hoped for "result-oriented" negotiations that would ensure the "governments and peoples of both the countries."

During the June meeting, India and Pakistan agreed to extend a moratorium on nuclear tests and to set up a telephone hot line between the two bureaucracies in their foreign ministries. These agreements were expected to be finalized at this week's talks.

Although New Delhi and Islamabad have used missile tests as a form of diplomatic pressure, officials from both sides say recent tests weren't aimed at sending any signals ahead of negotiations. The two sides also pledged to notify each other prior to missile tests, but the current talks are aiming to formalize an agreement under which they would provide additional details about their tests, such as the range of the missile and the location of the test.

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## Women don't belong in infantry

In response to "Women Can Handle War" (Oct. 31), this subject is so delicate for any enlisted male to speak about, let alone write about.

So, leaving all personal opinions aside, I say if females want to go into infantry units, then let them in. But in doing so, you have to level the playing field completely, starting with physical fitness requirements and body fat requirements.

Living quarters in garrison should be integrated down to having Marines of the opposite sex as roommates. Females should also have to register for the selective service as all men do when they turn 18.

Right now it is overly obvious to most infantry noncommissioned officers that the military is more concerned with quantity not quality. It would rather have bearded up battalions with as many personnel as possible, regardless of how many of them would be to be carried or excessively helped along by a way.

Since we are already letting anyone who tells his recruiter that he wants infantry into the infantry, why limit it to kids who don't barely lack cv? Open the door completely to females, too.

Then do anonymous surveys of the units that have been integrated. See how many men complain about having to "pick up the slack" or extra sandbag working parties, or carry gun systems that much further on a hump.

See how many sexual harassment cases you have in those units, how many unwanted pregnancies you have. Watch and see how low morale gets.

Women have played a large role in the war on terrorism in support roles. No one can deny that. And yes, this is a different fight than America has had in the past. The war has changed, the world has changed and the military has changed. The only thing that has not changed is the fact that the United States has won every major fight it has been in for years and years. So I say either rewrite the whole program, or drop it.

If the U.S. war machine isn't broke, don't try to fix it.

Marine Sgt. Michael David Titus  
 Al Qaim, Iraq

## They weren't 'religionists'

In response to the letter writer afraid that a "holy roller" or "religionist" might use a weapon of mass destruction ("All religious fanatics a threat," Dec. 6), and his intolerance of religious views, I would like to rebut that with few facts he deigned to forget.

At this time, one of the terrorist states in the world is North Korea, known to probably have nuclear weapons and very willing to use them. In this totalitarian state a professing Christian would be killed or imprisoned to be "re-educated" for their proper atheistic world view, maybe using the book the letter writer espoused as the truth. If that same Christian escaped into China, he would probably be immediately

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returned to North Korea where he would be summarily executed, or he would be imprisoned in China to be "re-educated" also.

But let's go back a little to the enlightened 20th century. Have you forgotten the 20 million to 30 million killed by Josef Stalin? I don't believe he was a religionist.

How about Adolf Hitler? Over 6 million there. Nope, he was not a religionist.

Hmmmm, how about Chairman Mao Zedong? What is another 20 million here or there? No, not him either.

Let's see, how about Pol Pot in Cambodia? Only 2 million to 3 million, he was not a religionist either.

Let me see, how about the millions in South Vietnam murdered because they were Christians or sent to re-education camps.

Sudan? Somalia? Ethiopia?  
 So is it possible, if a religionist had a weapon of mass destruction he would use it? Maybe, but I would submit to you that recent and past history, if you want to continue to look further back, will prove that it is not a religionist you should be looking for, but maybe one with a more enlightened atheistic world view, perhaps.

Maj. Tim Cutler  
 Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

## Column won't be printed

I would like to offer reassurance to the writer of "All religious fanatics are a threat." His concern is the notion of publishing in Stars and Stripes a Christian devotional column.

He avowed, "... I swear to resist and revolt against all attempts to impose your dangerous beliefs upon me and all free people..." Mercifully, we are spared specifics as to how he would "revolt and resist."

Relax, specialist. I am certain Stars and Stripes will never publish this column. After eight months in-country, I have yet to read anything in this paper remotely encouraging for soldiers. Rather, if you were to base his assessment of the U.S. military's effort

solely on Stripes' reporting, one would conclude (a) the military is routinely getting its backside kicked and (b) official U.S. military policy is to abuse, degrade and humiliate any insurgents captured. So encouragement of soldiers of "Christian faith or otherwise" is not an editorial objective.

Another reason such a column will never see the pages follows. We often see ads about Stripes reporters with the proud claim "No one tells your story like we do." In the Dec. 6 issue I note articles by writers for The Associated Press, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, The Washington Post and Scripps Howard News Service. It was another issue of Stripes without a single article by a designated Stripes reporter. However, note the publications featured: they are all unabashedly liberal newspapers or news services -- apparently consistent with the Stripes editorial policy. Liberal publications are decidedly not pro-Christian.

A final note, specialist. I do not need to read "The End of Faith" to ascertain whether our Founding Fathers desired to establish a nation with Christian identity. I have read many of their letters and documents (their own words). George Washington said, "True religion affords government its surest support. The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of our youth. It is impossible to govern without the Bible."

For you may I recommend "The Faith of the Founding Fathers" by Edward H. Erwin for your edification.

Maj. Darrell R. Over  
 Camp Cooke, Iraq

## Only infantry deserves CIB

Despite the pleas by all noninfantry soldiers out there who think because they perform a few tasks that they should be awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for their service in this war. There is a time when the Army calls on its best to do the job. And I can guarantee you it is not those who are out there crying about not getting one.

I had the chance to be part of the operation to take out the insurgents in Najaf this past August. All of these so-called infantrymen out there were doing maybe a patrol, maybe a raid, or even a snap tactical control point. Heaven forbid the Army asks you to perform basic soldiering skills. I guess you don't remember that you are a soldier first and your military occupational specialty second.

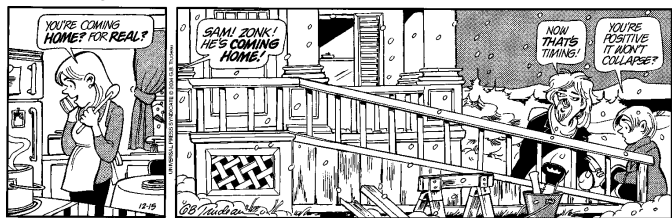
In regards to Najaf, our commanders called the best trained battalion in the 1st Cavalry Division, an infantry battalion, because he knew that was the key. The key word there is our "with." You may be used to do things that are similar to our job, but I can assure you that you do nothing like us.

Ask around next time Najaf comes up. You will find out that only we should be awarded the CIB because only we can do the job we did.

Sp. Kenji Nihipali  
 Camp Strike, Baghdad

## BY GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doonesbury



## OPINION

## Troops don't need to be shielded from truth

If you don't like the message, as an old spin doctors' motto goes, knock the messenger. That's how some people are reacting to the soldier's question that knocked Defense Secretary Donald

## Clarence Page



Rumsfeld off his game during a town-hall session in Kuwait.

Spec. Thomas J. Wilson, a scout with a Tennessee National Guard unit, wondered out loud why troops still have to fortify their canvas-covered Humvees with "hulibilly armor," scrap metal and ballistic-resistant glass that they dig out of landfills for protection. After a brief moment of stony silence, the comment brought a spontaneous eruption of "hoah!" and applause from other troops.

It also brought a remarkably condescending response from Rumsfeld, who may have become too accustomed to treating reporters like annoyingly curious children to shift gears to a tone appropriate for the combat men and women under his command.

"You go to war with the Army you have," he said, "not the one you might want or the one you might wish to have at a later time."

That was a curious comment, considering how much time the Defense Department has had to build up to "the Army we might want" since the end of what the administration calls "major fighting" in Iraq.

Rumsfeld deliberately held down the manpower and support for Iraq against the strong advice of former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinsekai, another general who said that more troops and equipment would be needed. The Army we have is what Rums-

feld wanted, not what the generals said we needed.

Now, Rumsfeld assured the troops, the Pentagon is pushing its suppliers to produce armored vehicles as fast as possible. But his claim brought swift dispute from some of the makers of armor and Humvees. The factories have been running well below capacity, spokesmen said, but the Pentagon had not taken them up on the offers to produce more armored vehicles.

Meanwhile, improvised explosive devices at roadblocks — against which our troops could use more armor — have caused about half of America's casualties.

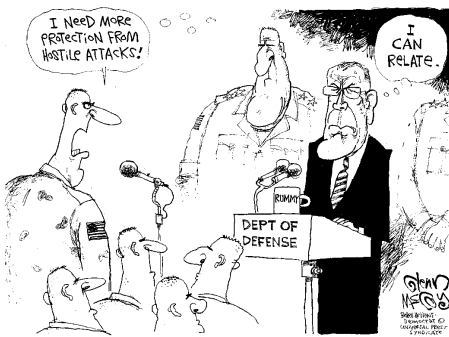
Yet, Rumsfeld added what may be the world's least necessary caveat: "You can have all the armor in the world on a tank; it can [still] be blown up."

I don't know when Rumsfeld will take questions from soldiers again, but the day after you-know-what freezes over sounds about right.

Yet, had it as they may be to criticize Spec. Wilson for raising a question that undoubtedly weighs on the mind of each and every soldier in Iraq, some people are finding ways to criticize the combat newspaper correspondent who, it turns out, had a hand in Wilson asking it.

Edward Lee Pitts, a reporter with the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times Free Press who is embedded with Wilson's Tennessee National Guard unit, took credit in an e-mail letter leaked to Internet sites that after he learned that reporters would not have a chance to question Rumsfeld, he worked on questions in advance of the meeting with two soldiers from the unit.

In a letter to readers, his newspaper acknowledged that the reporter should have mentioned his role in his reporting, but otherwise, his editors supported him, as they should. He did not deceive anyone. No one forced Wilson to ask the question, which



President Bush later agreed was a legitimate question to ask.

Yet, some partisan critics, apparently unable to defend Rumsfeld, attacked Pitts. "He created news in order to cover it," said conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh.

"We found out the whole thing today is a setup," Limbaugh added.

A setup to do what? Tell the truth? A Pentagon spokesman huffed that the meeting was "intended for soldiers to have dialogue with the secretary" and that no one should have "interfered with that opportunity, whatever the intention."

Hey, you want dialogue? You got dia-

logue! Here's a bigger question: Why should reporters have to resort to asking questions through soldiers in order to get an answer and, one hopes, some action from the top brass and the Bush administration on a long-standing problem like vehicle armor?

Our uniformed men and women in Iraq are not whining about this. They courageously take on dangerous missions every day. Afterward, they want to get home safe. The rest of us should support them with something more substantive than flag-waving. That's not too much to ask.

Clarence Page is a Chicago Tribune columnist.

## Chaplains not in conflict as they minister in battle

My interest in the work of military chaplains goes back to my childhood. The pastor of the church my father attended was an Army chaplain in World War II, having served in the South Pacific.

## Bill Tammes



Now and then he'd tell stories about it. Something (maybe many things) traumatic must have happened to him in the war, because eventually he became, in author Kurt Vonnegut's apt term, unstuck in time. Although he was physically ill in the present, his mind was back in the

South Pacific in the war, and he could speak of nothing else. He had to be sent to a mental institution. Eventually he left the military, emotionally and mentally wounded.

Despite (or maybe because of) this odd exposure to military chaplaincy, I have long admired the people who risk doing this work. I have never served in the military (though, even in the Vietnam era, didn't want someone with my severe near-sightedness and my diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis), but I know that the men and women who put on our nation's uniform need all the emotional and spiritual help they can get, especially on the battlefield.

I liked the way an article in the December issue of Christianity Today described the work such people do: "Chaplains are preachers, teachers and counselors, counted as vital players who quietly help hold the military together."

As much as I'm a stickler for separating church and state, I avoid the argument over whether government pay for chaplains is an unconstitutional breach of that wall. Military people, no matter what religion they follow (and sometimes even if they follow none), need chaplains to help them do their other-terrible work. And if they have a fair system for choosing chaplains of different faiths, I'm happy for the military to pay for that.

But I've always been curious about whether chaplains sometimes feel part of a killing machine. And, if so, how they live with themselves.

Not long ago, John W. Kiser, who grew up in my Kansas City church and now is an Army chaplain, was invited to Princeton Theological Seminary, the Presbyterian in-

stitution from which he got his theological degree, to preach on "Chaplains Day." In that sermon, John answered my question directly and well: "I do not see myself as an advocate of war but as a missionary of the gospel of peace. I am an advocate of soldiers to God, and for God to soldiers, even in the midst of warfare."

"I see war as a sign of a fallen, sinful world," but unfortunately remains at times."

John has served in Bosnia, Kosovo, Kuwait and Iraq. In fact, he was in Iraq the day Saddam Hussein was captured, and we shared e-mail that day about the joy the U.S. military personnel there were feeling.

"This is how the GIs [in World War II] must have felt when they knew Hitler was dead but even better," he wrote me.

"We got him alive."

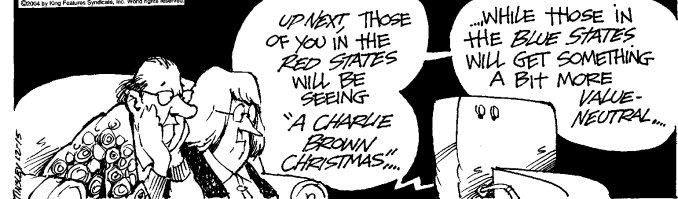
Over the years, the military chaplaincy has broadened to represent the growing spectrum of religions represented among our military. Even chaplaincy insignia have changed to acknowledge the reality that not all soldiers are Christian. Official insignia at one point added Judaism and then Islamic symbols, but now the move is not to single out any particular faith. In a country in which Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, neo-pagans, atheists, agnostics and others are increasingly prominent, that makes sense.

I don't know whether there are atheists in foxholes, but I know chaplains are there. And I'm grateful for their service.

Bill Tammes is a columnist for The Kansas City (Mo.) Star.

## Mallard Fillmore

Cartoon by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Word rights reserved.



BY BRUCE TINSLEY







## UVA investigation

**VA** RICHMOND — Federal education officials are investigating a complaint that the University of Virginia's undergraduate admissions policy discriminates against white applicants.

The complaint was filed after the Charlottesville university denied admission to a white male student from York for a spot in the fall 2003 incoming class.

"Many kids with far less qualifications had already been accepted to the university in the name of diversity," the student's father said in the complaint. "If my son had been a girl or a minority with his grades, test scores and extracurricular activities he would have been admitted to the University on his own with no problem."

U.Va. spokeswoman Carol Wood declined to discuss the investigation by the U.S. Department of Education's civil-rights office. She said, however, that diversity is one of many factors the university uses in determining admission.

## Stopping meds blamed

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — When the Rev. Joe Robertson heard that his grandson was accused of running the streets naked and scuffling with police, he had a good guess at what happened.

"I believe he just quit taking his medications," Robertson said about his grandson, Michael Porter, 19, who was seriously injured when a police dog bit him in the groin.

Porter, who remains in serious condition, was eventually subdued with a Taser gun.

Robertson said Porter had been taking medication to help him cope with his father's unexpected death about two years ago. Porter has been charged with four counts of felony assault and gross misdemeanor assault. He is accused of wandering through Minneapolis streets, sometimes wearing only a robe, at other times wearing nothing.

## Expensive legal fees

**VA** CHESAPEAKE — The city's successful defense of lawsuits accusing officials of failing to warn pregnant women about a harmful byproduct in Chesapeake tap water totaled \$2.4 million, according to documents released by the city.

All but \$300,000 went to pay two law firms: Williams Mullen, which has offices in Virginia Beach, and Breedon, Salb, Beasley & Duvall of Norfolk.

The firms began defending the city four years ago against hundreds of individual civil suits that collectively were seeking an estimated \$1.8 billion from the city. The cases never made it to trial.

Last month, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that Chesapeake was immune from such lawsuits.

## Fire on the set

**AZ** TUCSON — A fire broke out on the set of a TV movie being filmed at the Tucson Convention Center, injuring five people



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

and forcing the evacuation of thousands arriving for a concert in another part of the building.

The fire started on the set of ABC's "Desperation," written by horror writer Stephen King. It damaged the set, made to look like a mine shaft, but not the convention center.

Three people were injured by falling debris and received first- and second-degree burns on their faces and hands. They were taken to hospitals. Two others were treated for smoke inhalation, according to fire officials.

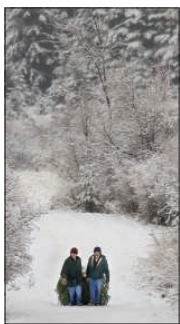
The cause of the fire was under investigation.

## Program losing money

**WY** CHEYENNE — The University of Wyoming's family practice residency programs in Casper and Cheyenne are losing \$1 million a year and do not offer high enough pay to attract top quality applicants, UW President Philip Dubois told a legislative committee. Dubois is asking lawmakers for about \$2.5 million to help the programs.

## Bare-bones crossing

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration proposed abandoning an expensive suspension design for the eastern stretch of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay



## Christmas plunder

Philip J. VanVleet, left, and his father, Phil C. VanVleet, of Hannawa Falls, N.Y., pull their Christmas tree out of the woods after it was cut fresh at the Van deWater tree farm in Canton, N.Y.

Bridge in favor of a plainer, cheaper concrete skyway.

"We need a safe bridge completed as soon as possible at a reasonable cost," said Sunne Wright McPeak, secretary of California's Business, Housing and Transportation Agency. "This is a time of very constrained resources for the state of California."

The bare-bones skyway design could shave between \$300 million and \$400 million off a project whose price tag ballooned from \$2.6 billion to \$5.1 billion, McPeak said. She predicted the bridge could be completed by 2011 or 2012.

At issue is a 2,100-foot stretch of the bridge's eastern span that will connect Yerba Buena Island to a 1.5-mile-long concrete skyway already under construction.

## Man gets 6 years in jail

**MD** BALTIMORE — A judge ordered a six-year sentence for a man who shot and killed a 15-year-old boy who was allegedly trying to steal a bicycle from the man's home.

Edward Day, 57, tearfully told Baltimore Circuit Judge John Glynn that he did not intend to shoot David Stewart with a double-barrel shotgun in the July 2002 incident.

Glynn sentenced Day to 13 years in prison, suspending all but six years. Day will get credit for having served two years and five months, mostly in home confinement.

Day had pleaded guilty to manslaughter and a weapon charge in the fatal shooting. Prosecutor Wes Adams described the shooting as an act of "impulsive, angry, intentional behavior."

Defense attorney Kenneth Ravenell argued for leniency, describing Day as a Vietnam veteran who was badly affected by his time in the war.

## Grant money returned

**MO** KANSAS CITY — An agency that runs Head Start for thousands of low-income preschoolers with an \$18 million federal grant has relinquished the funds after audits revealed the agency was millions of dollars in debt, officials said.

Without the Head Start component of its \$28 million budget, KCMC Child Development Corp. — which also provides nutrition, day care and summer school programs with other funding — probably will have to close, the agency's board chairman said.

## Stirred about shaking

**CT** SOUTHBURY — No matter what the deal, don't expect this city official to shake on it.

First Selectman Mark Cooper held a news conference to announce that he won't be shaking hands with anyone until flu season is over sometime next year.

Cooper said if anyone offers their hand, he will politely decline and give them a brochure on how to stay healthy this winter. He says he wants to set an example by limiting his contact with people.

"Flu season has started, and I don't want to pass along those germs," he said.



## Braving the winter

of Kalispell, Mont.

Snow rests on thick canvas coats worn by merino sheep in a field west



## In the line of duty

Spencer, Wis., firefighter Derek Griepentrog works on the roof of Randy and Pat Kilmer's home after a fire started in their home.



## Taking flight

Arena in Miles City, Mont.

Geese take flight at sunset above the Miles Community College Rodeo



## Wild imaginations

Kindergartners, from left, Kieara Bryant, Asia Woodley, Cheyanne Ainesworth, Taylor Zamora, Lacey Smith and Brooklyn O'Daniel use their imaginations to ride the Polar Express down a hill at Eisenhower Elementary School in Independence, Kan.



## Cookie monsters

First-grader Cady Thomas slides a reindeer cookie to a classmate to be completed as Cameron DeKuiper works on the deer antlers in Ludington, Mich.



## Best kind of delivery

Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas.

Air Force Pave Hawk crewmember Staff Sgt. Leonardo Cruz starts unloading a delivery of toys for the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program at

## Doctor indicted

**TX** DALLAS — A doctor under investigation for as many as 11 patient deaths was indicted on three felony counts of prescribing drugs without a medical purpose, prosecutors said.

Several patients of Dr. Daniel Maynard, ranging in age from 29 to 62, died of drug overdoses, toxic effects of mixed drugs and congestive heart failure, authorities have said.

Maynard wrote nearly \$5,000 prescriptions in 2002, records show.

That year he wrote more prescriptions for the sedative diazepam than any other Texas doctor, and the second-most prescriptions for Tylenol with the narcotic codeine, according to the records.

A spokeswoman for the Dallas County district attorney's office said the investigation of Maynard was continuing.

Police raided the osteopath's Dallas home and clinic in October 2003 to seize patients' records. The state medical board stripped Maynard of his license to practice a few days later.

## Drought fears eased

**CO** DENVER — The state appears to be bouncing back from five-year drought, thanks in part to above-average snowpack that has been good news for farmers and skiers alike.

"I think it is too early to say the drought is over. But now I would bet against it becoming a 10- or 20-year drought," federal climatologist Klaus Wolter said.

The Upper Colorado River basin was at 110 percent of average, the South Platte, a major source of water for Denver and northeast Colorado, was at 112 percent, and the Yampa-White River basin in northwest was at 111 percent. Even the hardest-hit part of Colorado, in the southwest, is improving.

## Drugged moms bill

**IN** LEBANON — State Rep. Jeff Thompson and State Sen. Jeff Drozda are sponsoring a bill that would allow prosecutors to charge women who are on drugs while giving birth and pass the narcotic to their babies.

Currently, authorities can only ask a judge to remove the child from the home, Thompson said he'd like to see the crime become a felony, but the bill would be easier to pass through the legislature as a misdemeanor.

## Reward value raised

**CT** NEW HAVEN — The reward for a key suspect in a 1983 Wells Fargo robbery was raised to \$1 million, the FBI said. The agency is seeking Victor Manuel Gerena, a former Wells Fargo guard accused in the \$7 million armored car robbery in West Hartford. The robbery was allegedly carried out by 16 members of a Puerto Rican nationalist group.

## Man burned in home fire

**KY** OWENSBORO — Henry Head Jr., 41, was treated for severe burns after a fire at his home, where investigators found items used for meth-making. Daviess County sheriff's Detective Bill Thompson said investigators

found material often used for manufacturing methamphetamine. Head already pleaded guilty to first-degree possession of a controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine in September.

## Water protection

**VT** MONTPELIER — Two environmental groups want special protection for more than 60 bodies of water in the Green Mountain National Forest, but the requests are generating opposition.

The state Natural Resources Agency, representatives of the timber and ski industries and the U.S. Forest Service say they're not sure the extra protection is necessary.

"We're really surprised at the level of opposition, that there isn't more support," said Jamey Fidel of the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

The council and the Conservation Law Foundation are advocating for stronger conservation promises on the lakes, ponds, brooks and wetlands.

## Metro budget plan

**DC** WASHINGTON — For the first time in the transit agency's history, Metro management unveiled a budget plan that tops \$1 billion. The budget does not raise riders' fares, but does call for a considerable payment increase from jurisdictions served by Metro. General Manager Richard White said most of the growth in expenses is due to new programs and increases in payroll, pensions and fuel costs.

## Death investigated

**AZ** PHOENIX — Kevin Keogh, the city's longtime finance director, died after apparently falling or jumping from a moving car. Witnesses told police that Keogh, 51, climbed onto the top of his moving Mercedes-Benz, stretched out his arms and then jumped or fell. Investigators don't know whether the death was intentional, but the cruise control was set at about 50 mph.

## Church consolidation

**LA** LE MARS — A shortage of priests will force six Roman Catholic Churches to consolidate into one central parish in Le Mars. The six current churches would close after the construction of a new church that may seat 1,000. All four priests currently serving the churches have endorsed the proposal. The consolidation allows for two priests to serve the new parish.

## Harbor spill

**MA** BARNSTABLE — A man suffered a fatal heart attack while refueling a ferry, resulting in a spill that dumped nearly 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel into Annis Harbor, a Coast Guard official said.

The man was gassing up the Grey Lady, a high-speed ferry operated by Hy-Line Cruises between Cape Cod and Nantucket.

According to Chief Petty Officer David Gilbert, he had a heart attack and died, but the fuel kept flowing, dumping an estimated 1,900 gallons into the harbor.

The harbor was closed and a containment boom was placed around the spill.

Stories and photos from wire services



## AFTRS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFTN's Web site at <http://myaflr.dodmedia.csd.mil/>

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2004

|       | (AFN-FAMILY)                             | (AFN-MOVIE)  | (AFN-EUROPE)   | (AFN-KOREA)                      | (AFN-NEWS)                   | (AFN-SPORTS)                  | (SPECTRUM)                | (AFN-PACIFIC)             |
|-------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9:00  | Stanley: Worms at Work                   | Movie *** "Born Into Evil" (1997, Drama) Gene Phillips   | Dr. Phil   | Jeopardy!                        | Nightline                    | College Basketball: Illinois  | 30 Minute Meals           | Jeopardy!                 |
| 9:30  | Sagwa-Siamess Cat                        | Two teenagers run away from home and head to California. | Headline News  | Headline News                    | Headline News                | College at Duke, (Taped)      | Food 5 IT                 | Headline News             |
| 10:00 | Arthur (E)                               | 10:00  | (9:48) Oprah Winfrey   | ESPNews                          | Handball With Chris Matthews | ESPNews                       | Gemlike City              | ESPNews                   |
| 10:30 | Reading Rainbow (E)                      | 10:30  | (3:35) Guiding Light   | Advisory Block                   | The O'Reilly Factor          | SportsCenter                  | Fashion File              | Pacific Report            |
| 11:00 | Sagwa-Siamess Cat                        | 11:00  | Movie *** "Back to the Future Part III" (1990, AD)   | (1:17) General Hospital          | Arrested Development         | The King of Queens            | E! News Live              | The Parkers               |
| 11:30 | Stanley                                  | 11:30  | Arrested Development   | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NBA Basketball: Denver        | The King of Queens        | Arrested Development      |
| 12:00 | Dora the Explorer: The beach             | 12:00  | The Wiggles  | Judge Judy                       | Headline News                | Nuggets at Philadelphia: Ties | That '70s Show            | That '70s Show            |
| 12:30 | Bob the Builder: Tennis court            | 12:30  | Movie *** "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1958, Drama) Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman, Burt Reynolds | Today Meryl Streep: Tyler Pionce | Fox and Friends              | Charm'd 'A Witch in Time'     | Charm'd 'A Witch in Time' | Charm'd 'A Witch in Time' |
| 13:00 | Dragon Tales (E)                         | 13:00  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Pacific Report                   | The Tonight Show             | Fox and Friends               | Any Day Now 'The Season'  | Pacific Report            |
| 14:00 | Blue's Clues 'Environments'              | 14:00  | Movie *** "I Could Have Been a Sailor" (1994, Comedy)  | Headline News                    | American Morning             | SportsCenter                  | Any Day Now 'The Season'  | The Tonight Show          |
| 14:30 | Barney & Friends (E)                     | 14:30  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 15:00 | Funtastic Home Videos                    | 15:00  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 16:00 | Pokémon                                  | 16:00  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 16:30 | Yu-Gi-Oh! 'The Rescue'                   | 16:30  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 17:00 | Aaahh! Real Monsters                     | 17:00  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 17:30 | Rocket Power                             | 17:30  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 18:00 | SpongeBob SquarePants                    | 18:00  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 18:30 | Rugrats                                  | 18:30  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 19:00 | Erin Stevens                             | 19:00  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 19:30 | Kenan & Kel                              | 19:30  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 20:00 | Gilmore Girls 'The Road Trip to Harvard' | 20:00  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 20:30 | Degrassi: Next                           | 20:30  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 21:00 | Degrassi: Next                           | 21:00  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 21:30 | The Cosby Show 'The Will'                | 21:30  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 22:00 | Home Improvement                         | 22:00  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 22:30 | Touched by an Angel 'Sandcastle'         | 22:30  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |
| 23:30 |  | 23:30  | Movie *** "The Untouchables" (1960, Action)  | Headline News                    | FOX News                     | NFL's Greatest Game           | ER 'First Snowfall'       | Headline News             |

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2004

|       |  |       |  |       |   |                              |  |  |                                     |                            |
|-------|--|-------|--|-------|---|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 00:00 | Aaahh! Real Monsters                     | 01:00 | Movie *** "The Cable Guy" (1996, Drama) Jim Carrey               | 11:30 | Late Show   | Play With the Sesame         | Headline News                                      | SportsCenter                                       | Late Night                          | Play With the Sesame       |
| 00:30 | Rocket Power 'Rocket Girls'              | 01:30 | Movie *** "The Cable Guy" (1996, Drama) Jim Carrey               | 12:00 | Access Hollywood  | Bear in the Big Blue House   | NBC Nightly News                                   | Headline News                                      | The Amazing Race                    | Bear in the Big Blue House |
| 1:00  | SpongeBob SquarePants                    | 12:45 | Movie *** "Point Break" (1991) Patrick Swayze                    | 12:45 | NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Cleveland Cavaliers | Boonbah (E)                  | ABC World News Tonight                             | NBA Shootaround                                    | The Amazing Race                    | Boonbah (E)                |
| 1:30  | Rugrats                                  | 1:00  | Movie *** "Point Break" (1991) Patrick Swayze                    | 1:00  | Wheel of Fortune  | Wheel of Fortune             | CBS Evening News                                   | NBA Basketball: Detroit Pistons at New York Knicks | Discovery Science: Miami SWAT Teams | Wheel of Fortune           |
| 2:00  | Erin Stevens                             | 2:00  | Movie *** "Point Break" (1991) Patrick Swayze                    | 2:00  | Dr. Phil  | The Newshour With Jim Lehrer | NBA Basketball: Detroit Pistons at New York Knicks | Discovery Science: Miami SWAT Teams                | Discovery Science: Miami SWAT Teams | Dr. Phil                   |
| 2:30  | Kenan & Kel                              | 2:30  | Movie *** "Point Break" (1991) Patrick Swayze                    | 2:30  | Oprah Winfrey   | Hannity & Colmes             | NBA Basketball: Detroit Pistons at New York Knicks | Discovery Science: Miami SWAT Teams                | Discovery Science: Miami SWAT Teams | Oprah Winfrey              |
| 3:00  | Gilmore Girls 'The Road Trip to Harvard' | 3:00  | Movie *** "The Princess Diaries" (2001) Julie Andrews            | 3:00  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 4:00  | Degrassi: Next                           | 4:00  | Movie *** "The Princess Diaries" (2001) Julie Andrews            | 4:00  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 4:30  | Degrassi: Next                           | 4:30  | Movie *** "The Princess Diaries" (2001) Julie Andrews            | 4:30  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 5:00  | Sesame Street (E)                        | 5:00  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 5:00  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 5:30  | Barney & Friends Lost cat                | 5:30  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 5:30  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 6:00  | Blue's Clues (E)                         | 6:00  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 6:00  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 6:30  | Blue's Clues (E)                         | 6:30  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 6:30  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 7:00  | Dragon Tales (E)                         | 7:00  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 7:00  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 7:30  | Bob the Builder                          | 7:30  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 7:30  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 8:00  | The Wiggles 'Harold'                     | 8:00  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 8:00  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 8:30  | Dora the Explorer                        | 8:30  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 8:30  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 9:00  | Stanley                                  | 9:00  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 9:00  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 9:30  | Sagwa-Siamess Cat                        | 9:30  | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 9:30  | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 10:00 | Arthur Baby Kats arrives (E)             | 10:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 10:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 10:30 | Reading Rainbow (E)                      | 10:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 10:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 11:00 | Sagwa-Siamess Cat                        | 11:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 11:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 11:30 | Stanley                                  | 11:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 11:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 12:00 | Dora the Explorer                        | 12:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 12:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 12:30 | The Wiggles 'Lilly'                      | 12:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 12:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 13:00 | Bob the Builder                          | 13:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 13:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 13:30 | Dragon Tales (E)                         | 13:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 13:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 14:00 | Blue's Clues '30'                        | 14:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 14:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 14:30 | Barney & Friends (E)                     | 14:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 14:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 15:00 | Funtastic Home Videos                    | 15:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 15:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 15:30 | Pokémon                                  | 15:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 15:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 16:00 | Yu-Gi-Oh!                                | 16:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 16:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 17:00 | Aaahh! Real Monsters                     | 17:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 17:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 17:30 | Rocket Power                             | 17:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 17:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 18:00 | SpongeBob SquarePants                    | 18:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 18:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 18:30 | Rugrats                                  | 18:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 18:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 19:00 | That's So Raven                          | 19:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 19:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 19:30 | All That                                 | 19:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 19:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 20:00 | 7th Heaven 'I Love Lucy'                 | 20:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 20:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 20:30 | Sabrina, the Teenage Witch               | 20:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 20:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 21:00 | The Cosby Show                           | 21:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 21:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 22:00 | Home Improvement                         | 22:00 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 22:00 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 22:30 | Touched by an Angel 'Venice'             | 22:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 22:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |
| 23:30 |  | 23:30 | Movie *** "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999, Comedy) | 23:30 | Headline News   | NBC Nightly News             | NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Phoenix Suns          | Friends  | Friends                             | NBC Nightly News           |

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## FACES

## Winfrey, Cruise host Nobel concert

Oprah Winfrey didn't have to think twice when she was asked to host this year's Nobel Peace Prize Concert with Tom Cruise.



Winfrey



Cruise

"I'm here because, first of all, when the Nobel Committee calls, you try to answer with a yes," she told reporters before Saturday's show. Plus, she added, "I like to go wherever Tom Cruise might be. You have the Nobel Committee and Tom Cruise — who's gonna say no to that?"

The concert, in Oslo, Norway, was held to honor Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai. The show was broadcast live in more than 100 countries and featured musical artists such as British teen soul singer Joss Stone, opera vocalist Andrea Bocelli, jazz singer Diana Krall, and pop singers Cyndi Lauper and Patti LaBelle.

The 64-year-old Maathai, Kenya's deputy environment minister, was honored as founder of the Green Belt Movement, which has sought to empower women, improve the environment and fight corruption in Africa for almost 30 years. She is the first environmentalist and first African woman to be awarded the coveted Nobel Peace Prize.

"What a momentous occasion this is for not just African women, but particularly for African girls," Winfrey said. "In Maathai, African girls have a role model they can look at and say, 'I want to be like her.'"

The concert will be broadcast in the United States on Dec. 23 by E! Entertainment Television.

## Regis Philbin to sub for Dick Clark

Regis Philbin will fill in as host of ABC's "New Year's Rockin' Eve 2005" for Dick Clark, who suffered a mild stroke last week, the network announced Monday.

Philbin, co-host of the syndicated "Regis & Kelly," has made subbing for aging entertainers something of a specialty, coming to David Letterman's aid when Letterman was ill in 2002 and 2003.

Clark, 75, remains hospitalized following his stroke, spokesman Paul Sheffrin said, but is "getting better every day."

In a statement, Clark said his doctors advised against the New Year's Eve duties, saying it was too soon.

Philbin will be joined by singer Ashlee Simpson, who's hosting the West Coast part of the show. Besides Simpson, performers include Big & Rich, Ciara, Earth, Wind & Fire, Good Charlotte and Billy Idol.



Philbin

## Wax nativity scene attacked

A waxwork nativity scene that features soccer star David Beckham and his pop star wife, Victoria, as the parents of Jesus has been damaged in an attack, Madame Tussauds London museum said Monday.

The museum piece, which has drawn criticism from Christian leaders who say it's disrespectful, was damaged Sunday when a male visitor pushed over the figures of the Beckhams before running out, museum spokeswoman Diane Moon said.



Wax nativity at Madame Tussauds

The exhibit had been closed off and police and museum staff were investigating security footage to track down the vandal, Moon said.

The nativity figures were representations of (in photo, from left) actors Samuel L. Jackson, Hugh Grant and Graham Norton dressed as shepherds, the Beckhams as Joseph and Mary, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, The Duke of Edinburgh and President Bush as the Three Wise Men and singer Kylie Minogue as the angel.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



BRAVO/AP

Supermodel Heidi Klum is host and executive producer of "Project Runway," a new series on Bravo. The show promises to pick the next big thing among a group of aspiring designers.

# Labor of love

## Heidi Klum is giving back to fashion, modeling world with 'Project Runway'

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL  
The Associated Press

Heidi Klum got her start in fashion through a German modeling contest and now she's returning the favor: She is the host and executive producer of "Project Runway," Bravo's new TV series that promises to pick the next hot fashion designer.

"I had a spot to do this. I wanted to give someone a chance who might not have had it," she says.

After 11 years in the business, Klum says she knows the fashion playing field isn't necessarily even.

"Look at Zac Posen. He had a huge break because he knew some people to get in. He's so talented and he thinks so innovative, but there probably are a lot of Zac Posens around," Klum says.

(Posen, at 23, won the Council of Fashion Designers of America award for emerging talent earlier this year.)

"Project Runway," which follows 12 contestants through a series of fashion challenges, is more of a documentary than a reality show, according to Klum. Most of the episodes were shot in advance but the three finalists will have a runway runoff during New York Fashion Week in February.

"We're going to show the public what it's like to be a designer. I think people will be interested to see what it's really like, how talented designers are. What we're looking for is who is talented, not who is the funniest, not who is good looking," Klum explains.

The judges should be able to spot talent. The roster includes Michael Kors, whose upcoming spring 2005 collection has already enjoyed glowing reviews; Nina Garcia and Anne Slosser from Elle magazine; Constance White, style director for eBAY, and Klum, who has worn designer dresses in almost every major fashion magazine in the world.

As a model, it's her job to wear whatever is thrown at her, but Klum, 31, says some of the outfits she's worn for photo shoots are hardly her taste. "For the cover of Time (Style & Design), I looked like Tweety Bird. We needed instructions on how to put the dress on, but these things have to be there in fashion so we have something to talk about. ... If everything was a black spaghetti-strap dress, fashion would be boring."

The task for the "Project Runway" participants is to balance creativity, quality and salability, all in a limited amount of time and with minimal resources.

Daniel Franco, a 32-year-old from Los Angeles, says, win or lose, having his designs on TV is the best marketing

tool he could have imagined — even better than the halloped pages of Vogue, Harper's Bazaar or Elle.

"Fashion programs allow designers to get their personalities out there and that's what people are buying. The Midwest seems to relate to personality and hopefully if they like your personality, they'll buy your clothes," Franco says.

Franco, who has studied fashion for six years, including creating his own master's program at Otis College of Art and Design, describes his look as somewhere between designer ready-to-wear and couture.

"If David Bowie's music were fashion designs they'd look like mine. They're a look into the future; they're innovative, very conceptual, a slender aesthetic for the modern athletic body," he says.

The aspiring designers featured on "Project Runway" aren't quite amateurs — Franco, for example, has been featured on Jane Pauley's talk show twice as a fashion expert — but they are still searching for their big break. The prize of having their designs photographed for Elle by publication director and shutterbug Gilles Benaim and getting \$100,000 in seed money and a mentorship from Banana Republic would go a long way toward achieving that goal.

But just because they're on television and hung out with Klum and Kors, don't expect someone like Wendy Pepper, a 40-year-old mother, to go Hollywood — or even New York.

"I'm going to stay in Middleburg (Va.). I have my own shop here and my basic operations will always stay here. I will work elsewhere but my child is in school here so we're staying," Pepper says.

Her experience on the show, however, is helping her run her existing clothing business better.

"I saw that you need to exude confidence and have vision. I had been able to coast along in a little town where everyone knew what I did and I've made a living in fashion for 20 years," Pepper says.

She also learned that to be famous in fashion, you need to be able to convince someone that they're buying into a bigger picture, not a single garment. "It's all about reputation, and you need to be consistent," she says.

The time limits were the biggest thimble in her side during the taping and she says not all of her pieces turned out the way she would have liked. "You're looking at something that's falling apart and being held together by Velcro and staples, but you need to sell it as the most beautiful thing you've ever seen," Pepper says with a laugh.

*"I had a soft spot to do this, I wanted to give someone a chance who might not have had it."*

### Heidi Klum

"Project Runway" host and executive producer

# Horoscope

Venus is packing up her Louis Vuitton bags as she prepares for her dramatic exit from Scorpio's bedroom. It's the end of the affair and the start of an adventure. Our love lives reflect this departure in a subtle shift. Instead of going deep into relationships, we'd rather go wide. Romance now means travel, variety and newness.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 15).** Determined action is easier than ever to take this year as new inspiration ramps up your drive to succeed. Romance takes over your life in the new year, and you'll be making decisions based on the best thing for you and loved ones. Lucky love signs are Pisces and Taurus. A career change is in store in the spring, but make your move carefully. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 32, 4, 18 and 27.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The favor (sale, referral or perk) goes to the one who asks for it. You're probably pushing your luck, but how else are you going to know exactly how far your luck extends? If you don't, someone else will.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** A single event has a happy outcome for several people, including you. Even if you have to rearrange your schedule, spend time with your main sequence. Stolen moments bind you blissfully together.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The attention you get when you apply your talent to otherwise menial tasks is enough to puff up your ego slightly. It's challenging to avoid gossip and yet still be informed as to what your people are up to.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Sure, your involvement in a noble venture is its own reward. Though you're not looking for praise, it would be nice if the people you relate to were as responsible as you are. Be a giving looking for other givers, not takers.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You have an unencumbered channel of expression — the ideas are flowing.

It's part of the reason someone thinks you're sexy! Before making a move, this shy person will wait for a sign from you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll dream of making your living at something new! Talk about your aims with a Libra or Cancer. The more fiscal responsibility you accept, the more money you'll make! Turn in that rebate before it's too late.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Your understanding of complexities is impressive. If someone doesn't "get" you, it's nothing to take personally. Being interested in what others might consider mundane is a sign of intelligence!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Streamline your life by refusing to add extra work and unnecessary possessions. Simplifying things helps you unleash your creative powers, and it's full steam ahead! Your satisfaction comes from doing, not dreaming.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** There's a super-seductive glow about you. Many people want to partner with you, and you'll have to make a choice. Keep your social options open, as one could drop off at the last minute.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Scholarly pursuits bring fabulous opportunities. Take a professional gamble, or go with a whim. Spend time with pals who understand your gains run off on you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You are at a romantic crossroads. Choose the path carefully and with your heart. Make conscious choices so you don't have to repeat mistakes made unconsciously. Loved ones live up to your definition of their roles.

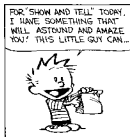
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're capable, and everyone can see this, so you receive many requests. Be specific about what you are willing or not willing to give. Nothing relieves stress more than spending time with someone who adores you!

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



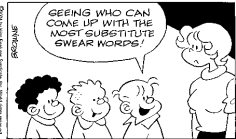
## Zits



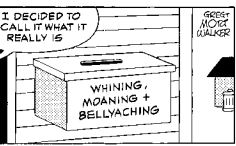
## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



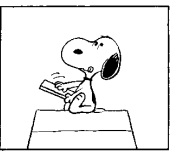
## Red Rover



## Better or Worse



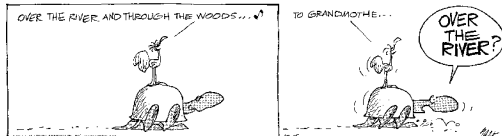
## Peanuts



## Foxtrot



### B.C.



## Baby Blues



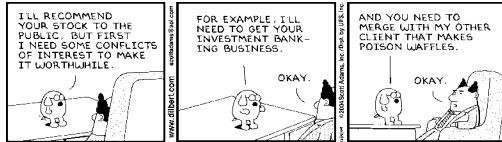
## Spider Man



## Blondie



## Dilbert



Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
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| 45 | 46 |    |    |    |    |    | 47 |    |    | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| 51 |    |    |    |    | 52 | 53 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 54 |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    | 56 |    |    |    |
| 57 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    | 59 |    |    |    |

### Across

- 1 One with a handle  
on the highway  
system?  
5 Seat of the  
Catholic Church  
8 Basilica section  
12 Roughly  
13 Marseilles  
monarch  
14 Harbor structure  
15 Texas city  
17 Bog material  
18 Presidential  
middle name  
19 Hold protectively  
21 Pickpocket  
22 Steerer's place  
23 Monokini's lack  
26 Fresh  
29 Dentist's advice

## Down

- |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 "The Georgia Peach"             | 29 General address?        |
| 2 La — tar pits                   | 30 Austin Powers, e.g.     |
| 3 Actor Morales                   | 31 Hedgepodge              |
| 4 "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," e.g. | 32 Obstinate sorts         |
| 5 Thrive                          | 33 Young fellow            |
| 6 A billion years                 | 39 Indigent                |
| 7 Coven member                    | 42 What St. Ives           |
| 8 Horrifics                       | 43 wives had               |
| 9 Region of Italy                 | 44 Freeway                 |
| 10 Close up tight                 | 45 — mater                 |
| 11 Art Deco VIP                   | 46 Show your horses?       |
| 12 Chew —                         | 48 Hold girl "At the Copa" |
| 20 Ump                            | 49 Unsigned (Abbr.)        |
| 23 Consumer-aid org.              | 50 Eye woe                 |
| 24 "Norma —"                      | 53 MGM mascot              |

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A | I | L |   | M | E | A | R |   | S | P | E | D |
| A | C | M | E |   | E | A | R | K |   | T | O | R | T |
| S | H | A | G | B | A | R | K |   | A | U | N | T |   |
| P | E | N |   | I | N | N |   | A | G | R | E | E |   |
|   |   |   | F | A | T |   | Z | I | P |   |   |   |   |
| P | A | I | L | S |   |   | R | O | M | A | N | C | E |
| A | R | I | A |   | T | O | O |   | R | E | A | M | S |
| W | E | I | G | H | E | D |   | S | T | E | W | S |   |
|   |   |   | S | I | X |   |   | A | N | Y |   |   |   |
| R | A | F | T | S |   | E | M | U |   | J | A | B |   |
| I | D | E | A |   | D | R | A | G |   | R | A | C | E |
| B | E | E | F |   | N | O | S |   | O | V | I | D | S |
| S | E | L | F |   | A | S | S |   | W | A | D | S |   |

## 12-15

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**CRYPTOQUIP**

T FQLCR UW MKZQC TX  
MC'R DTLC QKUC UKZC  
MFW. "IK GMFIL WKO, T'U  
FDZCFRW QGOXXCR."  
Yesterday's Cryptogquip: WHEN A LUMBERJACK  
HAS FINISHED WORK, DO YOU RECKON HE  
MIGHT ENJOY A BIT OF LAGER?  
Today's Cryptogquip Clue: T equals I











# NHL owners set to counter rollback offer

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The NHL was set to make a new proposal to locked-out players on Tuesday that could possibly stall labor negotiations if it offered included a salary cap.

The sides resumed talks at 1 p.m. EST with the league reportedly taking to reject the latest offer by the union, which featured a 24-percent salary rollback but no linkage between revenues and player salaries. The union denies a salary cap unacceptable.

The Canadian sports television network TSN reported Monday that NHL executive vice president Bill Daly told the 30 team owners the league will turn down the union's offer made last week. TSN cited a memo from Daly to the owners.

"While the immediate 'rollback' of 24 percent offered by the union would materially improve league economics for the 2004-05 season, there is virtually nothing in the union's proposal that would prevent the dollars 'saved' from being redirected right into the player compensation system, such that the league's overall financial losses would approach current levels in only a matter of a couple of years," Daly said in Sunday's memo.

The league wants cost certainty, a sys-

## Any proposal with a salary cap will widen rift with players' association

tem that will provide a direct link between revenues and player costs. The players' association might quickly break off talks if the NHL's proposal includes that.

If that happens, the NHL will be closer to becoming the first North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute. There might be a month left to salvage the season. The last NHL lock-out ended with a deal on Jan. 11, 1995, allowing for a 44-game regular season.

But the sides might be too far apart to get a season in this time. The memo obtained by TSN "cynically" questioned the motives of the NHLPA's salary rollback offer.

"We believe the union's offer was more about trying to unify the players and ensure player solidarity with what they would perceive as a very substantial proposal than it was about making a good faith effort to reach agreement with us," Daly reportedly wrote.

The players' proposal also contained a luxury tax, a revenue sharing plan, a lower

cap on entry-level contracts and bonuses, and an effort to allow teams to take players to arbitration.

The NHL hasn't given the players' association an offer since July 21, when it presented six possible concepts to provide a framework for the league's first new collective bargaining agreement in a decade.

All six were rejected by the players on Aug. 17, and negotiations that followed over the next month failed to move the sides closer to resolving the philosophical difference of a salary cap.

Talks broke off Sept. 9 when owners turned down an offer, and the lockout — in its 90th day — was imposed a week later by commissioner Gary Bettman. Players and owners stayed apart from early September until last Thursday.

Lou Lamoriello, the New Jersey Devils General Manager who is on the NHL's negotiating committee, had no comment on the TSN report other than to say, "I'd rather just let things be and then wait until tomorrow."

Ted Saskin, the NHLPA senior director, wouldn't respond.

"It would not assist the collective bargaining process to comment on excerpts from a leaked league document," Saskin said. "We will comment on the NHL's response to our proposal when it is finally delivered to us."

"If Gary Bettman thinks the only way to do it is his way, that's most unfortunate because I think this is a very creative solution."

Even an immediate rollback of salaries for each year of every existing player contract might not entice Bettman and some hard-line owners to cut a deal without cost certainty.

"If they want to make general managers powerless to set a budget and decide what they want to do, and just have a budget set in New York that is supposed to apply to Toronto, Nashville etc., that's not going to fly with the players," Saskin said. "I know that's not a recipe for a solution."

Ottawa Senators owner Edward Melnik reportedly told Bettman that the salary rollback offered by players wasn't enough to end the lockout.

"It's not a solution," Melnik, who pulled the Senators out of bankruptcy, told The Ottawa Star. "It's a one-shot deal that doesn't work."

## Wake edges Temple

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Trent Strickland scored all nine of his points in the final nine minutes and No. 6 Wake Forest went 5-for-6 from the free throw line over the final two minutes to hold off Temple 67-64 on Monday night.

Eric Williams, who along with fellow starter Chris Paul, was disciplined for 5 minutes for being late for the team bus on the way to the game, had 17 points for the Demon Deacons (7-1), while Justin Gray added 15.

Paul, the leading vote-getter on the AP's preseason All-America team, and Williams were held out of the starting lineup for barely 2 minutes late for the bus. Paul finished with nine points and eight assists for the Demon Deacons, who were coming off a nine-day break for exams.

Mardy Collins had a season-high 25 points for Temple (3-5). Dustin Salisbury's three-point hit the rim with one second to play.

"Trent Strickland is a winner. He stepped up big for us on both ends of the court. We have to give him a game ball," Paul said. "He gets the emotion going for us."

In Monday's other Top 25 game:

**No. 20 Mississippi St. 74, New Orleans 59:** In New Orleans, Shane Power scored 17 points and Mississippi State extended its red winning streak to 13 games. Lawrence Roberts and Jamall Edmondson each scored 14 points, Ontario Harper added 11 and Winsome Frazier finished with 10 for the Bulldogs (8-2), who have won six of seven.

New Orleans' Bo McCaleb, who ranks 10th in the nation with a 22.5 point average, was limited to 16. New Orleans (3-4) had its two-game winning streak stopped.



Wake Forest's Vytas Daniulis, center, struggles to find room under the basket Monday against Temple's Keith Butler, left, and Mark Tyndale.

## Air Force defeated by Lamar in OT

The Associated Press

BEAUMONT, Texas — Teddy Davis' two free throws started an 8:0 overtime run that led Lamar to a 66-59 victory over Air Force on Monday.

Jason Grant hit two free throws with 42 seconds left in regulation to give Lamar a 50-47 lead. Air Force's Nick Welch drove in for a layup, was fouled and completed the three-point play.

Welch scored a game-high 20 points. Antoine Hood added 13 points for Air Force (6-4). Raymond Anthony led Lamar (4-2) with 15 points on five-of-10 shooting, including four three-pointers.

The Falcons' next game is at Iowa on Dec. 28.

## BYU promotes assistant Mendenhall to head coach

The Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — Defensive coordinator Lance Reynolds, who has been Monday as the football coach at Brigham Young.

Mendenhall replaces Gary Crowton, who stepped down two weeks ago after his third losing season.

"I'm ready to take this program to where it should be," Mendenhall said during a news conference.

Mendenhall and longtime BYU assistant Lance Reynolds, who has been interim coach since Crowton's resignation, were the in-house candidates to replace Crowton.

BYU also interviewed Utah defensive coordinator Kyle Whittingham, but he accepted an offer to take over for Urban Meyer at Utah. Meyer took the job at Florida.

**N.C. State RB McLendon going pro**

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State tailback T.A. McLendon, an injury-prone runner who never matched the promise he showed as a freshman, will skip his senior

season and enter the NFL Draft.

He scored 35 touchdowns for the Wolfpack, third-best in school history.

After being picked ACC rookie of the year with 1,101 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns, he missed four games as a sophomore, then struggled with shoulder and hamstring ailments this season.

**Oregon State aide hired as Army's AD**  
WEST POINT, N.Y. — Former Oregon State associate athletic director Kevin Anderson is the new athletic director at Army and the first black to hold the post at the academy.

Anderson served as executive associate athletic director for external affairs at Oregon. He replaces Rick Greenspan, who left the academy in September for a similar post at Indiana University.

"I love the tradition and I love what the academy is all about — the mission of de-

veloping leaders who are not only going to lead on the field, but also lead this country after they graduate," Anderson said. Anderson will start in his new post in January.

**Glansville interested in NSMU job**

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Jerry Glanville says he is interested in becoming head football coach at New Mexico State University.

The head coach of the Houston Oilers from 1985 to 1989 and the Atlanta Falcons from 1990 to 1993, said via telephone from his home in Cumming, Ga., that his first goal would be "not to be on anybody's schedule as homecoming opponent."

Brian Faison, NSMU athletic director, declined comment on the viability of Glanville as a job candidate.

**Missouri LB charged with rape**

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Missouri freshman linebacker Chris Newhouse was charged Monday with forcible rape and forcible sodomy, police said.

University police Capt. Brian Weimer said the victim came to police Sunday, accusing Newhouse of raping her early that morning in his Graham Hall dorm room.

Weimer said Newhouse, 19, was arrested at 1:35 a.m. Monday.

Newhouse was being held Monday on \$60,000 bail.

**Woman drops sexual assault lawsuit against U.S. Colorado**

DENVER — A former University of Colorado soccer player dropped her federal lawsuit Monday, one of three at the heart of the sex-and-recruiting scandal surrounding the university's soccer program.

The lawsuit, filed in January, alleged the athletic department retaliated against the woman after she talked to police about a football recruiting party where two other women say they were raped. She also claimed the department ignored her complaints of racial discrimination by her coach and teammates.





# Martinez picks Mets over Red Sox

## New York moves to finalize deal after outbidding Boston with four-year deal

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Look who landed Pedro Martinez. That's right, the other team in New York.

Martinez closed in on a four-year deal with the Mets, and the Boston Red Sox resigned themselves Monday to losing the three-time Cy Young Award winner.

"He was a great member of the Red Sox team for seven years, and a certain Hall of Fame," Boston President

Larry Lucchino told The Associated Press in an e-mail. "He will be missed, and we are disappointed to have lost him to the Mets and the National League."

Martinez's agent, Fernando Cuza, told the Mets he will attempt to work out a deal with them after New York guaranteed a fourth year, a person involved in the talks said on condition of anonymity.

"Nothing has happened yet," Martinez said from the Dominican Republic on Monday night.

For once, the Mets and new general manager Omar Minaya snatched the spotlight from the star-studded Yankees across town by making the biggest sport baseball's winter meetings, which ended Monday with many top players still searching for teams.

There were just five trades and seven free-agent signings finalized during the four-day session, but several clubs struck preliminary agreements with free agents that will be completed later this week.

Richie Sexson and Seattle appeared to be working their way toward a deal, but the first baseman's agent, Casey Close, said Baltimore was still in the hunt.

"Nothing is conclusive at this moment. We'll have to see where this thing goes the next 24, 48 hours," Close said. "It's all speculative as to what people's perspectives are."

The agent for Carlos Delgado, another first baseman, held preliminary talks with the Yankees and was speaking to the Mariners, who told an agent they might try to sign both Sexson and Delgado.

The White Sox traded slugger Carlos Lee to Milwaukee for speedy outfielder Scott Podsednik, reliever Luis Vizcaino and a player to be named. Four free-agent agreements also were announced, topped by catcher Mike Matheny's \$10.5 million, three-year deal with San Francisco.

Right-hander Esteban Yan agreed to a \$2.25 million, two-year contract with Ana-



Boston pitcher Pedro Martinez, left, and slugger Manny Ramirez smile during a game last season against the New York Yankees. Martinez is close to signing a four-year deal with the Mets.

heim, right-hander Todd Jones finalized a \$1.1 million, one-year deal with Florida and outfielder Wil Cordero got a \$600,000, one-year contract from the Washington-bound Expos, who also agreed to a minor league deal with outfielder Jeffrey Hammonds.

In an agreement awaiting a physical, second baseman Jose Hernandez agreed to a \$1.8 million, one-year contract with Cleveland. Late Sunday night, Toronto and free-agent third baseman Corey Koskie reached preliminary agreement on a \$17 million, three-year contract.

As teams headed home, many top free agents remained on the market, including Carlos Beltran, Adrian Beltré, Magglio Ordonez, Derek Lowe, Eric Milton, Jason Varitek, Orlando Cabrera, J.D. Drew, Edgar Renteria and Moises Alou.

Among the deals awaiting completion were Carl Pavano's four-year contract with the Yankees, a deal worth about \$39 million, and David Wells' two-year agreement with Boston.

Minaya expressed confidence about the negotiations with Martinez, but wouldn't detail the discussions.

"The good news is that we're still in dialogue," Minaya said.

"Every day that goes by and we are having dialogue is a good day."

Minaya then returned to New York, and the sides will work by telephone to finalize the contract language. Cuza did not want to comment on the talks.

Martinez helped pitch Boston to its first World Series title since 1918, but Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein said he refused to increase the team's offer in the past two days.

"We wish Pedro nothing but the best going forward both on the field and off the field," Boston owner John Henry said in an e-mail. "He pitched with every ounce of his being for the Red Sox over the course of 216 games. Some of those performances were among the most memorable in Red Sox history. Who will ever forget the 1999 All-Star game? He has earned everything that he has accomplished, including his World Series ring and his reputation as one of the greatest who ever lived."

Martinez, 33, must pass a physical before the Mets complete the deal. He would join a rotation that includes two-time Cy Young winner Tom Glavine, Kris Benson, Steve Trachsel and Victor Zambrano.

The Mets have faded badly since losing to the Yankees in the 2000 World Series, finishing last in the NL East in 2002 and 2003, then going 71-91 last season.

An agent who spoke with the Mets said New York initially offered Martinez a \$37.5 million, three-year contract with a \$12.5 million team option for 2008.

Boston's final proposal was a \$40.5 million, three-year deal that contained a club option for 2008, a baseball official said, also on condition of anonymity. The Red Sox thought the Mets' offer was for \$56 million over four years, the official said, but a Mets official said that figure was not correct.

An agent who spoke with the Mets said New York's proposal was worth about \$52 million.

"We put our best foot forward and made an offer that makes sense to the club," Epstein said. "We think it's a fair and generous offer."

Martinez's departure leaves the Red Sox to defend their title with a rotation that currently includes Curt Schilling, Wells, Tim Lincecum and Bronson Arroyo.

## Schilling's ankle won't be ready for Opening Day

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Red Sox ace Curt Schilling said his right ankle isn't recovering from surgery as quickly as he expected and he doesn't think he'll be ready to pitch by Opening Day.

"I'm going to be late, I think, starting the season," Schilling told WEEI-AM on Tuesday.

Schilling said he had a cast removed from the ankle over the weekend and learned for the first time that he wouldn't be able to rotate his ankle for four to five weeks. That means he won't be able to resume throwing when he had planned.

"So I'm looking at least another month before I start that retraining, which puts me a month behind," he said.

Schilling and team officials had expected to be ready by spring training.

The right-hander had surgery on Nov. 9 to repair a ruptured tendon sheath on his ankle. The injury appeared to have ended his season in the middle of Boston's World Series run. But team doctors, in an unprecedented procedure, made a wall of stitches in Schilling's ankle to keep the tendon in place.

Schilling started Game 6 in the ALCS and, with blood seeping through his socks, beat the New York Yankees. Boston eventually won the series.

Schilling didn't elaborate on when he'll start his retraining and left open the possibility that he might be ready sooner than expected. The Red Sox open at Yankee Stadium on April 4.

## Winter meetings deals

By The Associated Press

1. Pittsburgh traded LHP Arroyo to the Red Sox for RHP Jason Lincecum.
  2. Milwaukee traded RHP Dan Kolb to the Red Sox for RHP Josh Liddle and Alex Zurnwiler.
  3. Tampa Bay traded C Kevin Cash to Tampa Bay for RHP Chad Gaudin.
  4. Chicago White Sox traded OF Carlos Lee to Milwaukee for OF Scott Podsednik, RHP Luis Vizcaino and a player to be named.
  5. Tampa Bay acquired RHP Angel Garcia from Arizona for cash.
- (Major league free agents who signed major league contracts only)
1. Arizona signed RHP Ryan Lincecum to a \$3.1 million, four-year contract.
  2. Anaheim signed OF Steve Finley to a \$14 million, one-year contract.
  3. Texas signed OF Richard Hidalgo to a \$5 million, one-year contract.
  4. Toronto signed RHP Todd Jones to a \$1.1 million, one-year contract.
  5. The White Sox signed RHP Esteban Yan to a \$2.25 million, two-year contract.
  6. The Yankees signed C Mike Matheny to a \$600,000, one-year contract.
  7. The Yankees signed C Mike Matheny to a \$10.5 million, three-year contract.

## D-backs reopen 11th trade talks

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Arizona Diamondbacks called the New York Yankees again Monday in an effort to restart trade talks on Randy Johnson.

Moored asked if anything was new on Johnson, but did not make a new proposal, and the discussion ended there, the official said.

New York ended trade discus-

sions Dec. 1, calling the Diamondbacks' asking price for the Big Unit excessive.

Arizona's last proposal was to trade Johnson to New York for pitcher Javier Vazquez, setup man Tom Gordon, pitching prospect Brad Halsey and the difference between the \$17 million Johnson is due for the remaining year in his contract and the \$35.5 million Vazquez is owed in his deal, which has three seasons left.

Johnson's agents have asked Arizona to deal the 41-year-old left-hander to a contending team.

## Poll: Fans want steroid users banned

By ROB GLOSTER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A majority of fans say players who test positive for steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs should be banned from baseball any time such players should be barred from the Hall of Fame, a poll found.

But there is strong opposition among baseball fans to erasing records held by players who fail drug tests, according to the nationwide poll released Tuesday by Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

The poll was taken Dec. 7-12, a few days after the San Francisco Chronicle published leaked grand jury testimony in which Yankees slugger Jason Giambi admitted long-term steroid use and seven-time MVP Barry Bonds said he unknowingly took substances that prosecutors have identified as steroids.

Sixty-one percent of the 865 baseball fans polled said players who test positive should be banned from the game, while 33 percent oppose such a move. The breakdown was fairly consistent

across gender — 60 percent of men and 64 percent of women supported such sanctions.

Fifty-two percent of these questioned said major leaguers who test positive for steroids or other drugs should be banned from the Hall of Fame, while 42 percent said they should not be banned.

On the question about expunging the records of players who fail drug tests, 57 percent were opposed and 36 percent supported such a move.

The poll has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

# Huskies make history with two high-profile black head coaches

## Willingham joins basketball coach Romar at Washington

By TIM KORTE

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Tyrone Willingham and Lorenzo Romar are recognized as accomplished college coaches, the biggest reason Washington administrators are looking to have them working the sidelines.

The fact that both men are black and supervising the school's two most visible athletic programs is "a little bit extra," in the words of university president Mark Emmert.

It's also historic.

Willingham was introduced Monday as Washington's new football coach, two weeks after being fired at Notre Dame. Romar is in his third season as coach of the men's basketball team.

Washington is the first school from a Bowl Championship Series conference to have two black men overseeing the two major sports since Temple of the Big East had Ron Dickerson as its football coach with longtime basketball coach John Chaney from 1993-97.

"We're delighted to have in Lorenzo Romar and Tyrone Willingham two first-rate coaches who are wonderful people of great character," Emmert said.

**“This [Willingham hire] may be the most important hire in the history of Husky football.”**

Lorenzo Romar  
Washington men's basketball coach



The University of Washington chose former Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham, above, as its new head football coach on Monday. It is a return to the Pac-10 for Willingham, who previously coached at Stanford.

Willingham's hiring is newsworthy for another reason. He's the first black head coach to be fired by one high-profile football program and then quickly resurface at another.

"That is honestly significant," Willingham said. "With the old landscape, there have been limited opportunities for one to truly be able to get back into the system. I think that's a very positive step."

Romar, hired by former athletic director Barbara Hedges, leads a basketball team that reached the NCAA tournament last spring. The basketball Huskies, No. 18 in this week's poll, are expected to contend for this season's Pac-10 title.

Both Willingham and Romar

said their positions at Washington represent progress for blacks, but insisted that job qualifications should always mean more than skin color.

"I'm excited as an alum and a current employee of the University of Washington that our university is making progress and not using color as the No. 1 factor on whether they're going to hire someone," Romar said. "It's about who is the best qualified. Who is the best fit?"

"This may be the most important hire in the history of Husky football," Romar said. "You can't make it a political hire."

Said Willingham: "I am proud to be African American, but we should get to the point where that's not the focus, where it's really the body of work that a man does. I'm looking forward to increasing my body of work."

Emmert and athletic director Todd Turner, who both are white, said race wasn't a factor in Willingham's hire.

They simply wanted the best coach, and Willingham's name topped their list when Keith Gilbertson stepped down after a 1-10 season.

Emmert said the university would have used the same approach in hiring a college coach.

"This is the man we wanted as our coach," Emmert said.

Willingham's firing at Notre Dame, after the third year of a five-year contract, raised questions about whether he was given enough time to succeed and drew criticism from the Black Coaches Association.

Willingham was one of only five black head coaches in Division I-A last season. That number dropped to two after Tony Samuel was fired at New Mexico State. Hill resigned at San Jose State and Willingham was let go.



U.S. skier Bode Miller, above, won a men's World Cup slalom on Monday night at Sestriere, Italy, and joined Marc Girardelli as the only male skiers to win races in all four alpine disciplines in one season.

## U.S. skier Miller runs into record book again

### American becomes second man to win races in all four alpine disciplines in same season

By ANDREW DAMPP

The Associated Press

SESTRIERE, Italy — The lights were on. The Olympic course was glistering.

The setting was perfect for Bode Miller to put his name in the record book once more.

The World Cup leader won a night slalom Monday to join Marc Girardelli as the only male skiers to win races in all four alpine disciplines in one season.

"I don't feel any different than before," Miller said. "These are the kinds of things you tell your kids about."

Earlier this season, Miller won super-G and downhill races for the first time. He won a giant slalom Sunday at Val d'Isère, France.

"At this point, I just really enjoy what I'm doing. I think being compared to some of the guys they're comparing me to is a unique opportunity," Miller said. "If you're happy with what you're doing, records don't mean as much. It's just it's just fun to ski four events."

Miller covered the course for the 2006 Turin Olympics in a two-run time of 1 minute, 39.03 seconds for his sixth victory in 10 races this season. That increases his lead on Austrian rival Hermann Maier in the overall standings to 391 points.

Miller's ultimate goal is to become the first American man to win the overall title since Phil Mahre in 1983.

Silvan Zurbriggen of Switzerland was second, a distant 1:27 seconds behind, for the first World Cup podium finish of his career. Kalle Palander of Finland was third, 1:41 seconds back.

Girardelli became the first man to win slalom, giant slalom, super-G and downhill races in the same season in 1988-1989, over a two-month span. Miller compiled his victories in only 16 days.

Girardelli still has the edge on Miller, however. He also won a combined — a paper event based on the results of a slalom and downhill — that season. Miller will have a chance to match that in the first combined event this season in Wengen, Switzerland, on Jan. 14.

## New Irish coach won't shrink from straight talk

By TOM COYNE

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame players were taken aback the first time Charlie Weis spoke to the team.

It wasn't Sunday night, when Weis flew in to sign a six-year contract to coach the Fighting Irish. It was last winter, when then-coach Tyrone Willingham invited the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator to speak to the team as a guest.

He didn't come in and tell them how great Notre Dame was.

Instead, he criticized the team, which the players say was a first for a guest speaker.

"It shocked us. He really spoke his mind," tight end Anthony Fasano said. "He took it as he was one of our coaches back then."

Weis told reporters Monday

that being plausibly open is his style.

"Unlike a lot of people that are in the profession, folks, what you see is what you get here," he said. "There's no hidden agenda. There's no self-promotion; this is who I am, and, fortunately or unfortunately, I wear my colors ... I'm a pretty straight shooter."

Weis showed a bit of a brash side Monday in being introduced to the media, showing confidence that he's ready to turn his alma mater back into an elite program.

"I've been groomed under the best, and it gets you in the position to be successful when you're given your opportunity," he said. "Well, guess what, folks, I hit pay dirt. The opportunity just struck, and I'm in."

Weis will be dividing his time between two full-time jobs — Notre Dame coach and New En-

gland Patriots offensive coordinator — for up to seven weeks. But he wouldn't say how he'll do that, except to say he won't be at the Insight Bowl Dec. 28 when Notre Dame (6-5) plays Oregon State (6-5) in Phoenix.

His next order of business is taking care of the players who are in place. He wants to let them all know he will be open-minded and everyone will be given a shot to show they can play.

Then comes the more tricky business: recruiting.

Weis hasn't recruited high school players in 15 years, when he was an assistant at South Carolina. And he might not be done with the Patriots until four days after high school recruits can sign with colleges.

He isn't worried. Weis figures he's been doing recruiting of another sort — trying to convince free agents to join the Patriots.

"It's not that farfetched to understand that recruiting is recruiting," Weis said. "It's people skills and you have to be able to sell both the school and yourself. I have the utmost confidence that I'll be able to do both of those things."

Recruiting analyst Tom Lemming said that school players will react positively to Weis.

"Kids are looking for a chance to get to the NFL, and here's probably the most innovative and popular offensive coordinator in the NFL, and he's got three Super Bowl rings," Lemming said.

Weis still has to prove he can be a head coach.

"That's a big question mark," said former Irish player Mark Bavaro, who played for the New York Giants while Weis was an assistant coach.

Bavaro, who is a friend of Weis, believes he will do well.

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# Sub-.500 Carolina might be best of sorry lot

In 1982, the NFL season was shortened to nine games by a strike, and the playoffs were expanded to 16 teams, including two that finished 4-5.

That is the only time a losing team made the postseason. Given the sorry state of the NFL, there's a possibility it will happen for the first time in a full season this year. In fact, if the playoffs started now, the Carolina Panthers (6-7) would be the final wild-card team.

## Dave Goldberg

At least they would be somewhat deserving.

The Panthers were the conference champions last season and have won five straight games after losing seven of their first eight. Right now, they might just be the NFL's second-best team, behind Philadelphia, after adjusting for the loss of wide receiver Steve Smith, defensive tackle Kris Jenkins and running backs Stephen Davis and DeShaun Foster.

Quarterback Brett Favre summed up the NFC perfectly after Green Bay struggled to beat Detroit on Sunday to take the lead in the North.

"We should feel good about this win," he said. "But we're not good enough to feel that good."

Although New England, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Philadelphia and Atlanta have clinched divisions, the jury is still out on everyone else.

Right now, the first wild card in the NFC would be Minnesota, which is 7-6 despite losing five of seven to fall a game behind the Packers. The way the Vikings usually finish — they were 3-7 after opening 6-0 last season — nothing is guaranteed.

The strangest disparity the NFL had was in 1985, when Cleveland won the AFC Central with an 8-8 record.

In those days, there were two wild-card teams from each conference, and Denver



Carolina Panthers' Ricky Manning Jr., left, runs past St. Louis Rams defender Arlen Harris after intercepting a pass during the first quarter of the Panthers' 20-7 victory on Sunday.

(11-5) missed the playoffs in a three-way tiebreaker with the New York Jets and New England Patriots.

Broncos' linebacker Tom Jackson summed that up 20 years ago with the bluntness that has served him well in his television career.

"The situation with us points up how unfair the system is now," he said then. "I don't think there's any way that you can have a team be in double figures in victories and have one of the best records in the conference and yet be at home when the playoffs start."

Jackson's sense of unfairness was assuaged somewhat when the Broncos ended up making the Super Bowl (and losing) in three of the next four seasons. And the Browns, who not only made the postseason that year but got a first-round bye, lost just 24-21 to defending conference champion Miami, which finished 12-4.

For other 8-8 teams that made the playoffs: New Orleans in 1990, the Jets in 1991 and Dallas and Detroit in 1999.

But no better teams within their conferences were left out.

This year, plenty of AFC teams will go

home knowing that they are more deserving than NFC teams that make the playoffs.

Right now, the Jets (9-4) would be one AFC wild-card team, with Baltimore and Denver (8-5) battling for the other spot, and Jacksonville and Buffalo (7-6) on the outside. The Bills, who held Cleveland to just 17 yards Sunday (15 of them in garbage time) have won four straight games and six of seven since Willis McGahee became the starting running back.

"If we're in the other conference, I'd have some hope. But we got a little behind the field in our conference," Bills owner Ralph Wilson said.

In the NFC, even 5-8 doesn't eliminate a team. And inconsistency is the norm.

Dallas's stirring comeback in Seattle last Monday night seemed to herald a late-season playoff run with rookie Julius Jones doing for them what McGahee has done for Buffalo. Then Dallas went home and lost 27-13 to New Orleans, managing just 269 yards against a team near the bottom in nearly every defensive category.

"Every time we have an opportunity with this team to do something and to maybe make something out of our season, we revert to the kind of thing you saw today, which was a very, very poor example of how to try to win," Cowboys coach Bill Parcells said.

That's the NFC. Miami is 2-11, and its only victories are over NFC teams St. Louis and San Francisco.

Philadelphia is 12-1 and can clinch home-field advantage for the playoffs with one more victory or an Atlanta loss. But even the Eagles have had trouble with AFC teams.

Their only loss was a 27-3 pounding in Pittsburgh. They were forced into overtime by Cleveland (who just 3-10) and had to work to beat Baltimore 15-10 at home in a game in which the Ravens were without running back Jamal Lewis.ackle Jonathan Ogden and tight end Todd Heap.

At that time, neither team would lose their fourth straight NFC title game — to Carolina, a team below .500.

Dave Goldberg writes about the NFL for the Associated Press.

# First postseason in decade within Chargers' grasp

By BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — It's been a long time since either the San Diego Chargers or coach Marty Schottenheimer were talking playoff possibilities this late in the season.

The unimaginable can become reality on Sunday for the Chargers, who can win the AFC West based on two scenarios, or at least clinch a playoff berth under two other scenarios.

"This is a fun time to be a San Diego Chargers fan and also a player," linebacker Donnie Edwards said Monday, a day after San Diego won its seventh straight game, 34-21 over Tampa Bay, to improve to 10-3.

Edwards, a nine-year NFL veteran, was still at UCLA the last time his hometown Chargers made the playoffs, in 1998. He played for six seasons in Kansas City, and only now, in his third season with San Diego, are the Chargers on the cusp of returning to the postseason.

The Chargers, who have a two-game lead over Denver in the AFC West, can win the division title on Sunday if the Broncos lose

at Kansas City, which would secure a better division record for San Diego.

They can also win the West if they win or tie at Cleveland, and Denver ties. The Chargers can clinch a playoff berth if they win and Baltimore loses or ties at Indianapolis, or if they tie and Baltimore loses.

The Chargers have won 10 games for the first time since their Super Bowl season of 1994, but it's not quite good enough yet to stamp their playoff passport.

"It's a very tough division," said Edwards, who sealed Sunday's victory with a 30-yard interception return for a touchdown in the closing minutes. "You can be 5-8 and still be in the hunt in the NFL. It's just different. I don't know what it is. But the AFC is a tough division and there's a lot of teams over 500 that still haven't clinched, just like us."

Predicting the Chargers don't collapse like they did two years ago, they're battling Indianapolis for playoff seeding. Pittsburgh and New England have clinched division titles at 12-1 and have the inside track to first-round byes. The Colts have won their division and are also 10-3.



San Diego's Kassim Osoke spies the ball after his 19-yard touchdown reception in the Chargers' 31-24 victory over Tampa Bay on Sunday.

If form holds, the Colts and Chargers — who play each other on Dec. 26 at Indianapolis — would host the wild-card teams the second weekend in January.

Schottenheimer hasn't been to the playoffs since 1997. His Chiefs missed the postseason in 1998, he was out of football for two seasons, and he fell short with Washington in 2001 and with the Chargers the last two years.

"The excitement I get is about our players, our organization, our fans, because when you're able to have success and get in the playoffs, everybody shares in that," Schottenheimer said.

Although Schottenheimer is eighth on the career list with 175 victories, he is just 5-11 in the postseason, with Cleveland and Kansas City, including losses in his last four games with the Chiefs.

His Chiefs were 13-3 in 1995 and 1997, getting a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, but were upset in the divisional round both times.

Schottenheimer said he took it for granted that his teams would be in the playoffs every year.

"I just sort of thought every year you're there and it's just a

matter of how far you go," he said. "That obviously isn't the case anymore in this league."

Quarterback Drew Brees and Edwards defended Schottenheimer's record.

"Look at Marty's career. Can you argue the amount of wins he's had, no matter where he has gone?" Brees asked. "He's done a great job wherever he's been. And this seems to be the year for a lot of crazy things happening. So hey, if that's the way it's been in the past with Marty, 5-11 in the playoffs, then maybe this is the year we run the table."

Edwards has been in only one playoff game, with the Chiefs following the 1997 season when Denver won 14-10 at Kansas City. "That was the third time a John Elway-led team eliminated Schottenheimer from the postseason — remember 'The Drive' and 'The Fun'?" Edwards asked.

"That's the past," Edwards said. "This is the new Marty Schottenheimer. We're trying to forget about the days of Cleveland and Kansas City and look to the new days in the playoffs with the Chargers. So hopefully we can turn a new leaf over."



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## SPORTS



Phoenix again soars  
into triple digits,  
routs Magic, Page 29

# The sign of points to come

## Chiefs rally to top Titans in wild, offensive show

BY BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — For two also-rans, the Chiefs and Titans sure know how to put on a show. A long, wild, controversial show.

The Monday night showcase featured 925 yards of offense, a season-high receiving performance, a highly debatable penalty, a bunch of comebacks — and, finally, a smile on the face of Kansas City coach Dick Vermeil after a 49-38 victory.

"I'm sure it was entertaining," said Vermeil, who swooled at his porous defense most of the night. "Some people may have turned their sets off early. I noticed that a lot of people left the game, the stands had empty seats."

"Pro football is pro football. Two teams, we were both in the playoffs last year and for one reason or another neither team is in the playoffs this year. But that doesn't mean we aren't good football teams or can't play exciting football."

Or controversial. Kansas City (5-8), which won 13 games last season, was helped greatly by a phantom penalty, then got the winning points on a 9-yard touchdown catch by Eddie Kennison with 32 seconds left.

Trent Green capped a 64-yard drive in just over a minute with his third touchdown pass.

One play earlier, referee Tom White called a personal foul on rookie Travis LaBoy for a hit to Green's helmet. But LaBoy clearly hit Green on the shoulder.

"I am disappointed in the performance of Tom White and the job he did officiating that game," said coach Jeff Fisher, who as co-chairman of the NFL competition committee rarely criticizes officials. "You've got to let players play."

One player who played his best was Titans receiver Drew Bennett, a former college quarterback. He had 233 yards receiving, a career high and the most in the league this season. Bennett caught three touchdown passes from Billy Volek, who threw for a career-high 426 yards in replacing the injured Steve McNair — one of nine Titans starters not on hand; three more left during the game.

But it wasn't enough for undermanned Tennessee (4-9), which gained 542 yards and lost on a night that even featured a snow shower in Music City.

SEE POINTS ON PAGE 34



Chiefs wide receiver Johnnie Morton celebrates his touchdown catch in the second quarter at the expense of Titans safety Scott McGarrhan. Kansas City surrendered 542 yards of offense but still won the shootout.

**Red Sox resigned  
to fact Martinez  
will leave  
for New York,  
but it's Mets,  
not Yankees**

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**Strickland gives  
Wake something  
in reserve,  
picks up slack  
for late-arriving  
starters**

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**Owners set to reject players' offer, make counter**

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